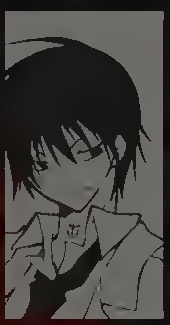
1
shiwo komeyama
BLOODY CROSS

BLOODY CROSS

1

Shiwo Komeyama

BLOODY CROSS



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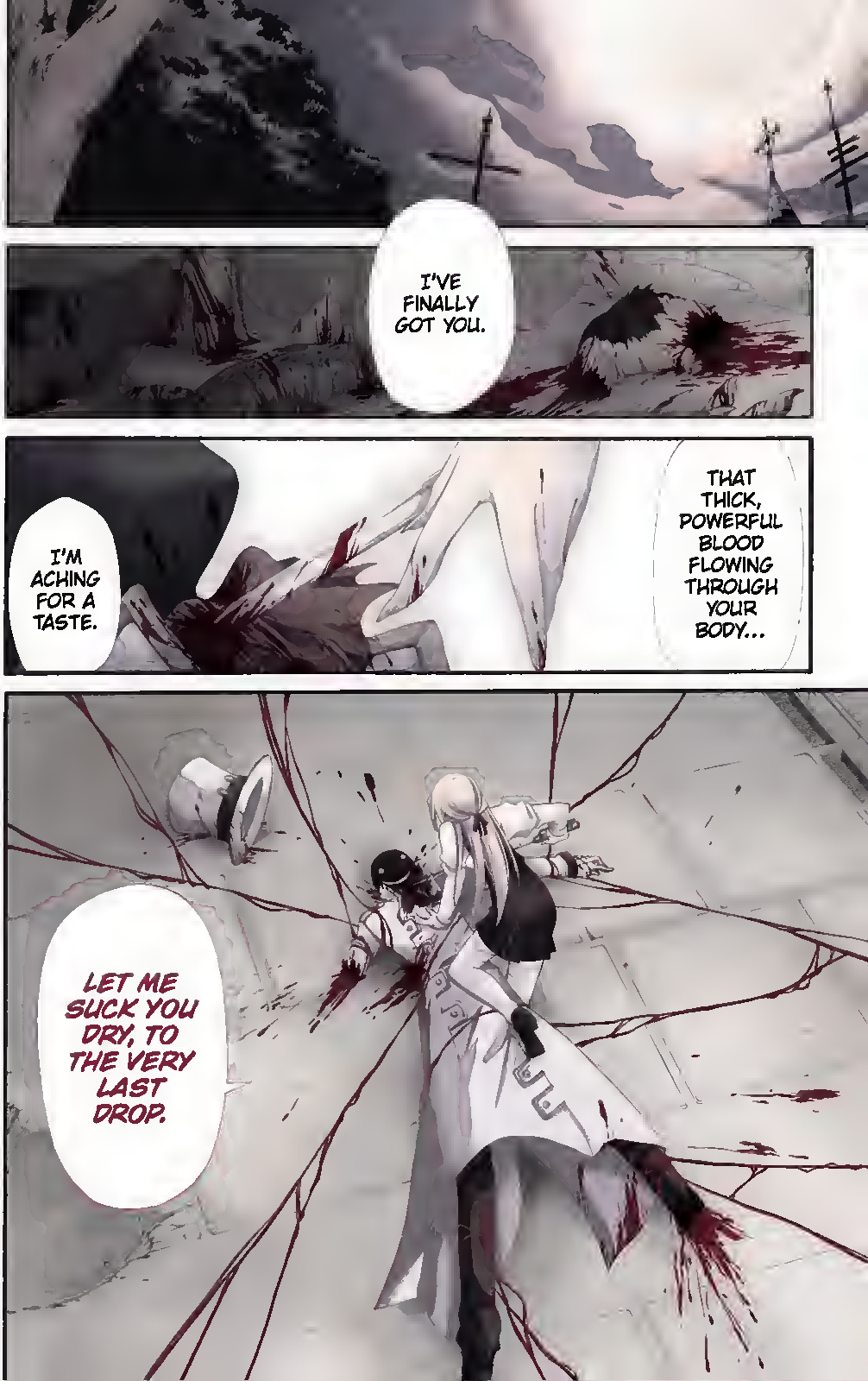
BLOODY CROSS


I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU.
THAT THICK, POWERFUL BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH YOUR BODY...
I'M ACHING FOR A TASTE.
LET ME SUCK YOU DRY, TO THE VERY LAST DROP.

GYURU (WHIP)
AS ONE WHO SERVES GOD, SHOULD YOU DESIRE DEMON BLOOD...
KOFF! HA HA!
DO! (SHWLIP)
...ANGEL!!?
HYU (SLSH)
I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE BEING CALLED "ANGEL," YOU KNOW.

GA (GRAB)
DO (JAB)
I'M ...
...TAKING YOUR BLOOD!

GABU (CHOMP)
MM...
GORO (ROLL)
DOSHU (SLASH)
IT'S NOT A PURE DEMON...
SHUUU (FIZZ)
...JUST A DUMMY.

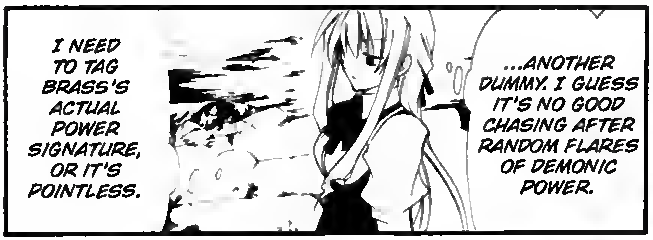
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
TSUKIMIYA
<ANGEL - MIXED RACE>
AND JUST WHEN I REALLY NEED A DRINK OF PURE DEMON BLOOD.
SHEESH ...
DOKUN (THROB)
GH... AGH...
... NEED IT... NOW ...
DOKUN
DOKUN
...I NEED THAT BLOOD ...
HFF!
... BEFORE I'M KILLED BY...
...THIS CURSE .....

HEH HEH HEH.
I SEE... I'D ONLY HEARD RUMORS, BUT...
...YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE HALF-VAMPIRE ANGELS, AREN'T YOU?
INCHOATE CREATURES SHUNNED BY BOTH ANGELS AND DEMONS!
YOUR PRES-ENCE HERE...
...HAS BEEN RELAYED TO LORD BRASS THROUGH THIS EYE.
A CURSE, EH? DEAR, DEAR, HOW PITIFUL. HYA-HA!
HEE—
...THANK YOU.
NOW I KNOW THAT THE REAL LORD BRASS IS NEARBY...
...SINCE YOU'RE ABLE TO REACH HIM WITH YOUR LOW LEVEL OF DEMONIC POWER.

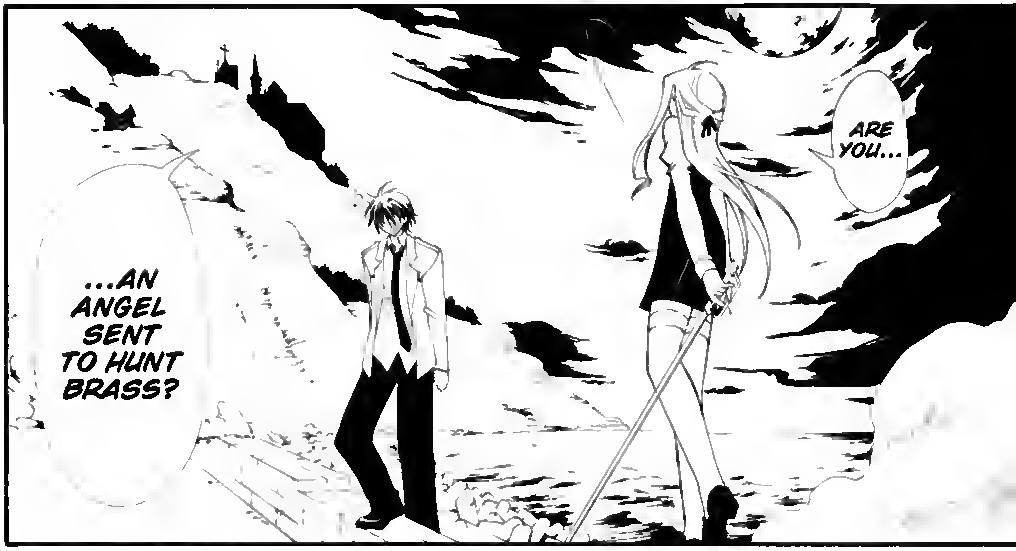
HAAH ...
ANOTHER DUMMY, HUH?
SUKON (PLUNK)
ARRO-GANT BAS-TARD.
...WHILE HE GETS OFF ON HIS FAVORITE PASTIME— MAN-EATING.
USING HIS TOYS AS DECOYS ...
MONYO (MUMBLE)
MONYO
BESIDES, I'M BETTER SUITED TO A ROLE ON THE SIDE-LINES.
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE I COULD TAKE DOWN A PURE DEMON ALL BY MYSELF, EVEN IF I DID TRACK HIM DOWN.
...NOT THAT I HAVE ANY CHOICE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BITCH.
... WELL ...
YEESH.
BRASS'S TRICKS SURE ARE GETTING OLD.

...WHO'S SKULKIN' AROUND BACK THERE?
BO (WOOSH)
SAWA (RUSTLE)
PIKU (TWITCH)
C'MON OUT AND SHOW YOUR-SELF!!
DYU (WISH)
ZUSHAAA (THWUD)
SUTA (TMP)
MISHI (CRACKLE)
MISHI
GOOD (SLIZE)

!


I NEED TO TAG BRASS'S ACTUAL POWER SIGNATURE, OR IT'S POINTLESS.
...ANOTHER DUMMY. I GUESS IT'S NO GOOD CHASING AFTER RANDOM FLARES OF DEMONIC POWER.

YUCK.
AREN'T YOU PUSHY.

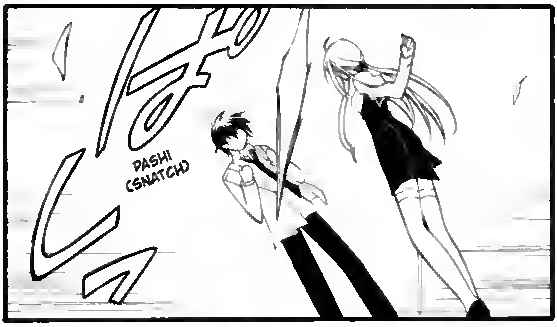

...AN ANGEL SENT TO HUNT BRASS?
ARE YOU...

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, BUT COULD YOU DROP THE CASE?
HE'S MY PREY.

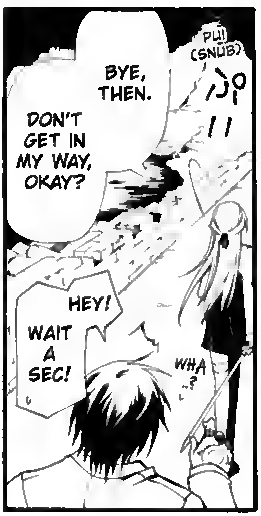
PER-FECT!
HUH?
GASHI (CLASP)
I SEE.
"TSUKI-MIYA.
"FIGHTING ABILITY: 'A,' PUNITIVE MISSION EXECUTION RATE: 'A+'"... HUH?
...
AH, IT'S GREAT TO MEET YOU!
NIKO (GRIN)
NIKO
MY NAME'S HINATA.
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW NICE IT'D BE TO HAVE A DEPENDABLE PARTNER AT MY SIDE!
HINATA
<ANGEL>
...DID YOU HEAR A SINGLE WORD I SAID?
BUN (SHAKE)
BUN
BUN
YUP, I DID, I DID.
IT'S JUST I'VE HAD AN INTEREST IN YOU FOR QUITE A WHILE, YOU KNOW.
...YOU SEEM STAND-OFFISH, BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE IN A CLASS ALL YOUR OWN.
LIKE
YOU ACCEPT AND COMPLETE DANGEROUS JOBS THAT OTHERS TEND TO AVOID...
...PLUS, NOW YOU'RE PURSUING PURE DEMONS ALL ON YOUR OWN...!
NOW THAT'S A HALF-VAMPIRE, HALF-ANGEL FOR YOU!

...HOW ABOUT WE WORK TOGETHER ON THIS ONE, EH, TSUKI-MIYA?
THEN AGAIN, SINCE WE ARE FELLOW ANGELS...

... EH? "FELLOW ANGELS" ...
HEH.


PASHI (SNATCH)

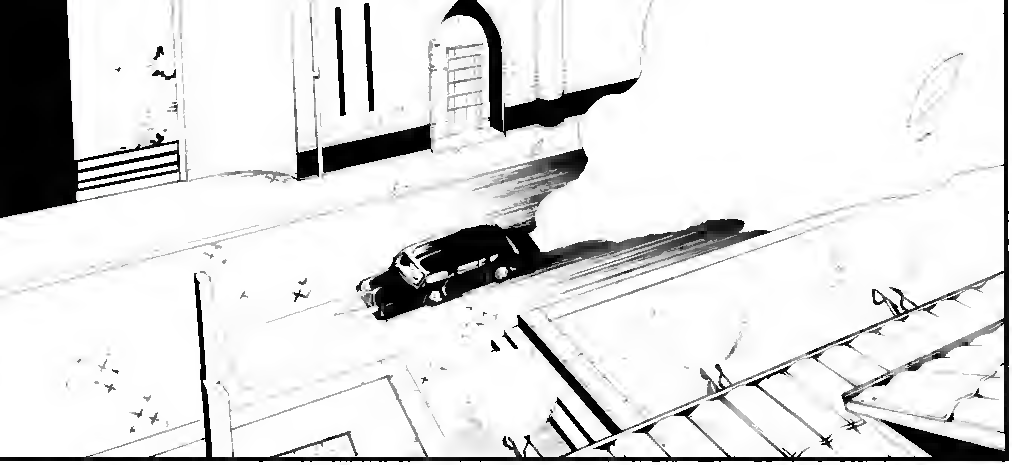
IN THAT RESPECT, YOU'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM US ORDINARY ANGELS.


PUI (SNUB)
BYE, THEN.
DON'T GET IN MY WAY, OKAY?
HEY! WAIT A SEC!
WHA...?

I'M PRETTY SENSI-TIVE THAT WAY...
...BEING HALF-DEMON AND NOT LIKE ORDINARY ANGELS.
YOU'RE FULL OF IT... TOTALLY UNTRUST-WORTHY.

GIN (GLINT)
!
GO (RRRMBL)
A DEMONIC PRESENCE ...!!
GO
GO!
FOLLOW HIS DEMONIC POWER!!
BA (FWP)
TCH ...
COME FORTH!!
PUR-SUE!!
KOOO (WHOO)

!
DOKUN (THROB)
THE DUMMIES DON'T EVEN COME CLOS—
DA (DASH)
WHAT INCREDIBLE DEMONIC ENERGY ...!
ALL HE DID WAS FLASH HIS "EYES" AT US FOR A SECOND...
...
YOU'RE ONE STUBBORN GIRL.
...SO WHAT? I'M NOT TEAMING UP WITH YOU.
HEY!
HE'LL BE TOUGH FOR EITHER OF US TO TAKE ON ALONE.
GAKU (SLUMP)
GH!
DOSA (THUD)
THIS CURSE ...
...IS SUCH A... PAIN IN THE...
SHUT UP!
HEY!
HFP!



COME ON DOWN, MY LOVELY GUESTS!
THIS PROMISES TO BE QUITE A PLEASANT EVENING!
BRASS
<PURE DEMON>

BORI CRUNCH
BORI
...THOSE ANGELS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CONFIRM MY WHEREABOUTS NOW.

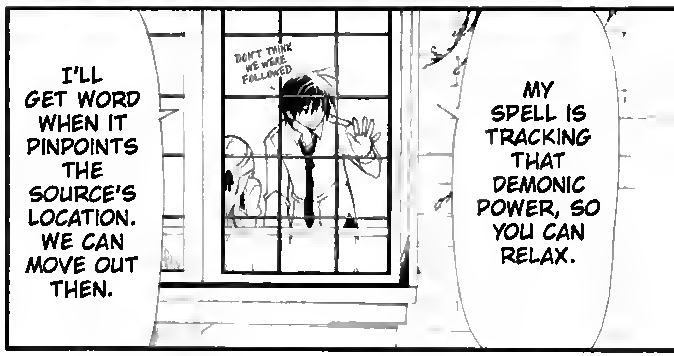
...AHH.
DEAR, DEAR, NOW I'M REALLY STARTING TO CRAVE IT.
PASA (PWOP)

FIRM, JUICY MALE-FLESH, OR SWEET LADY-FLESH... WHICH SHALL I EAT FIRST?
YOU KNOW, ANGEL FLESH IS RATHER TASTY TOO.

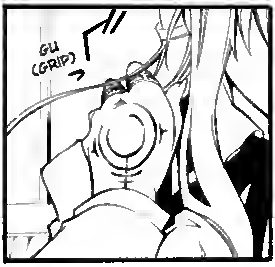
PER-
HAPS
...
...I'LL
GO ALL
OUT.

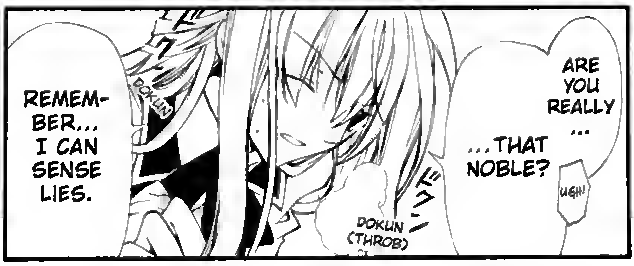
LET'S
REST FOR
NOW.
HERE,
SIT.

SO
WHY
ARE
YOU
HELP-
ING
ME?
...I
THOUGHT
I TOLD
YOU
THAT I
CAN'T
TRUST
YOU.
HFF


I'LL
GET WORD
WHEN IT
PINPOINTS
THE
SOURCE'S
LOCATION.
WE CAN
MOVE OUT
THEN.
DON'T THINK WE WERE FOLLOWED
MY
SPELL IS
TRACKING
THAT
DEMONIC
POWER, SO
YOU CAN
RELAX.

AS I SAID, I WANNA PARTNER UP WITH YOU!
BESIDES, I'M NOT THAT HEART-LESS A GUY.
I'LL AT LEAST LOOK AFTER SOMEONE WHO'S COL-LAPSED.


GU (GRIP)


ARE YOU REALLY ...
...THAT NOBLE?
UGH!
DOKUN (THROB)
REMEM-BER... I CAN SENSE LIES.

WELL, THEN ...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK I REALLY WANT?

YOU SHOULD CHECK YOUR-SELF...
...BEFORE SPECU-LATING ABOUT OTHERS.

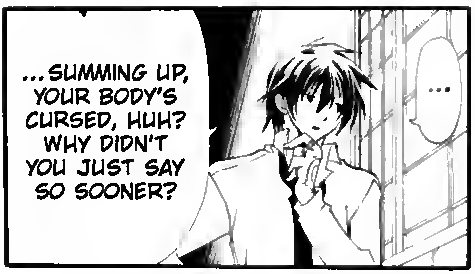
IN YOUR CONDI-TION...
...YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO FACE DOWN A DEMON RIGHT NOW...
...SO LET'S GO AT IT TO-GETH-ER.
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
...I MIGHT DIE AT ANY MOMENT IN MY PRESENT CONDITION UNLESS I DRINK A PURE DEMON'S BLOOD!?
YOU DO KNOW THAT AS A HALFIE ...
DASH! (WHAP)
YOU'RE WARPED ...!
BUT YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE A FIT MID-BATTLE.
YOU'RE DEFINITELY HIDING SOMETHING.
YOU SAY YOU STILL WANT TO WORK WITH ME WHEN I'M LIKE THIS...? ANYONE ELSE WOULD SEE ME AS DEAD WEIGHT!
SHUIRU (SLIP)
...ABOUT ...
YOU ASKED TO TEAM UP WITHOUT KNOWING ...
SERI-OUSLY ...
KYOTO (BLINK)

...THIS CURSE MARK THAT IS BRANDED ...
...ON MIXED-RACE ANGELS?

"GOD ...
"...COULD NOT PARDON ANGELS, WHO HOLD VIRTUOUS POSITIONS, WHO BORE OFFSPRING WITH DEFILED RACES.
"THUS, MIXED-RACE CHILDREN ARE ETCHED WITH A MARK.
"A MARK THAT BRINGS ABOUT DEATH."

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.
THESE FITS... ARE A SIGN THAT I'M ALMOST DONE.

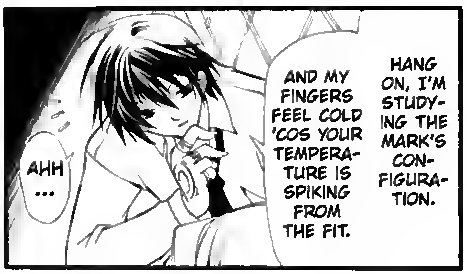
THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IS TO DRINK PURE DEMON BLOOD AND UNDO THE CURSE BEFORE YOU TURN EIGHTEEN.
SO MIXED-RACE ANGELS FIGHT EACH OTHER...
...OVER PURE DEMONS' BLOOD IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.


...SUMMING UP, YOUR BODY'S CURSED, HUH? WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SO SOONER?
...

?

LEM-ME SEE.
FIDDLING WITH SPELLS LIKE THAT IS MY SPECIALTY!
ZUI (LOOM)

HEY ...!
YOUR FINGERS ARE COLD!
BIKU (FLINCH)


AHH ...
AND MY FINGERS FEEL COLD 'COS YOUR TEMPERATURE IS SPIKING FROM THE FIT.
HANG ON, I'M STUDYING THE MARK'S CONFIGURATION.

IF I CAN'T TAKE BRASS'S BLOOD...
...I'LL BE DONE IN BY THIS MARK.

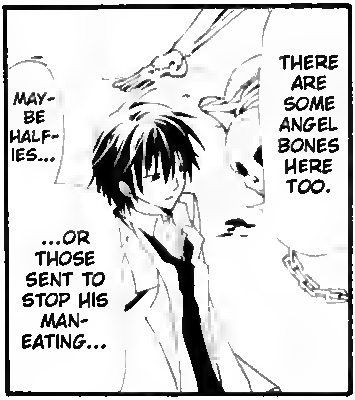
YOU ...!
ACTI-VATE!
BACHI (ZAP)
...MAYBE YOU'RE FLUSHED BECAUSE YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELF IN THIS POSITION WITH A MAN.
OR ...
KA (FLASH)
I PUT A SPELL BETWEEN THE MARK AND YOUR PAIN RECEPTORS SO YOU WON'T FEEL ANY PAIN IT PUTS OUT.
FWOO
... WELL ?
TOKUN (THROB)
TOKUN
... NO WAY ...

—THE FITS ARE WEAKENING...
I'M... SPEECH-LESS.
THANK YOU.
YOU HAVE AN AMAZING GIFT.
...OHO? I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST ANOTHER STUBBORN GIRL, BUT...
HOW CUTE.
...EVEN YOU CAN BE GRATE-FUL.
...
I TAKE IT BACK.
GU (CLENCH)
WHAT A SHAME.
YOU'D BE SO CUTE IF YOU'D JUST LOOSEN UP A BIT.

KREEEEE!
AWW, TOO BAD.
SEEMS BRASS HAS BEEN FOUND.
LET'S GO.
KYU (TUG)
WE'D BETTER HURRY.
AS FOR MY GRATITUDE, I'LL SHOW IT...
...BY FIGHTING BESIDE YOU, LIKE YOU WANTED.

THEY ALL MUST BE PEOPLE WHO WERE EATEN BY BRASS.
HUMAN BONES EVERY-WHERE ...

THIS PLACE IS TEEMING...
...WITH SOULS TAINTED BY HATE.


THERE ARE SOME ANGEL BONES HERE TOO.
MAY-BE HALF-IES...
...OR THOSE SENT TO STOP HIS MAN-EATING...

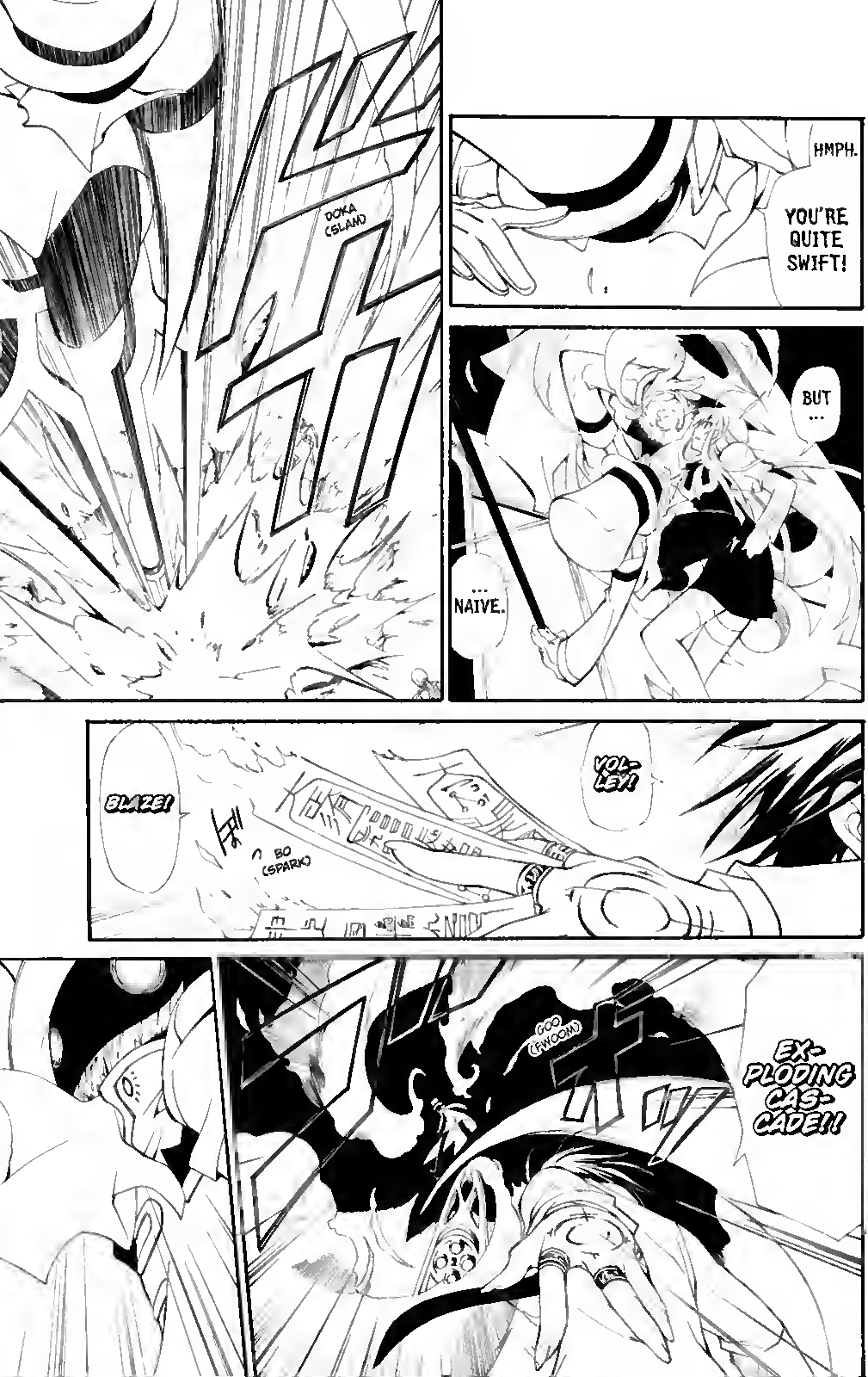
...IS RE-PUL-SIVE.
DESECRAT-ING THE DEAD LIKE THIS...

!
...I'M SAD-DENED.
DOKA (SLAM)
CHIKA (FLICKER)
I'VE GONE OUT OF MY WAY TO INVITE YOU HERE...
...AND YOU DARE DECLARE MY DARLING OBJETS D'ART "REPUL-SIVE"?
BAKYA (SNAP)
WHAT BOORISH YOUTH YOU ARE.

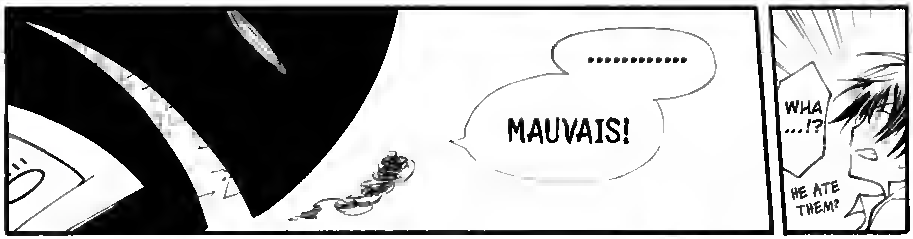
INCROY-ABLE!
(VWHAMO)
THIS PRES-SURE ...!!
DISRE-SPECT...
...IS A SIN.
TON (TMP)
SFX: KATA KATA KATA KATA KATA
...AND THEN REPENTED.
SFX: KATA (KLAK) KATA KATA
... COM-MIT-TED ...
AND SINS ARE ...

ATONE BY BECOMING MY FOOD...
... FOOLISH ANGELS.
...HOW ABOUT YOU ATONE FOR YOUR SIN OF MAN-EATING ...
SU (FSH)
...PURE DEMON BRASS?
ATONE BY LETTING ME SUCK YOUR BLOOD AND BECOMING MY FOOD.
YOU OR US.
I WONDER WHICH WILL BE...
...DE-VOURED BY THE OTHER ...!
BA (DASH)

HO!
SA (SLASH)
BYU (SWISH)
HIRARI (FLIT)
SFX: TATAN (SCAMPER)
NO, YOU DON'T!


DOKA (SLAM)
HMPH.
YOU'RE QUITE SWIFT!
BUT ...
... NAIVE.
BLAZE!
BO (SPARK)
VOL-LEY!
GOO (WOOM)
EX-PLODING CAS-CADE!!

SFX. AKUN (CHOMP)

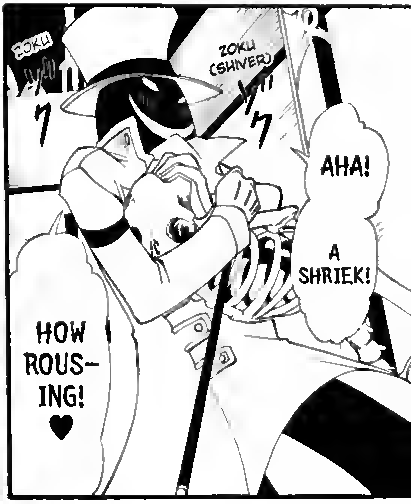

.....
MAUVAIS!
WHA ...!?
HE ATE THEM?

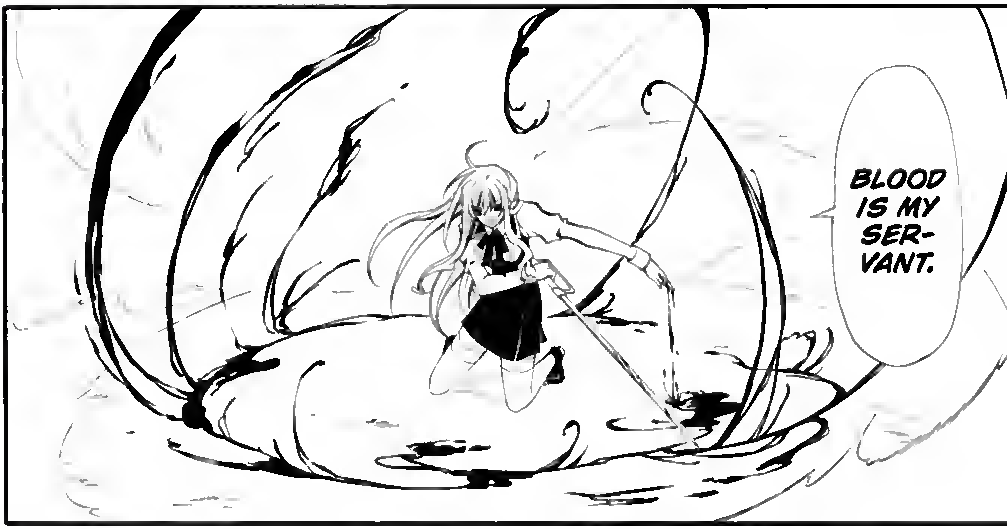
SFX. GACHA (CLAK) GACHA
GAKI (CRACK)
HUH !?
HEY ...!
GASHI (GRAB)
BE SQUASH-ED!

LA...
...MARIONNETTE DE MORT.

DO
(STAB)
シュル
SHURU
(WRAP)
パチン
PACHIN
(SNAP)
DANSE!
ツリン
TSURIN
(TUG)
AHH
...!!

...
DON'T UNDER-EST!-MATE ME.
BOTA (DRIP)
DOSU (THD)
DOSU
DOSU


ZOKU
ZOKU (SHIVER)
AHA!
A SHRIEK!
HOW ROUS-ING!


BLOOD IS MY SER-VANT.

MY PRINCE-LY BLOOD ...!?
...UGH!
BLOOD ...!

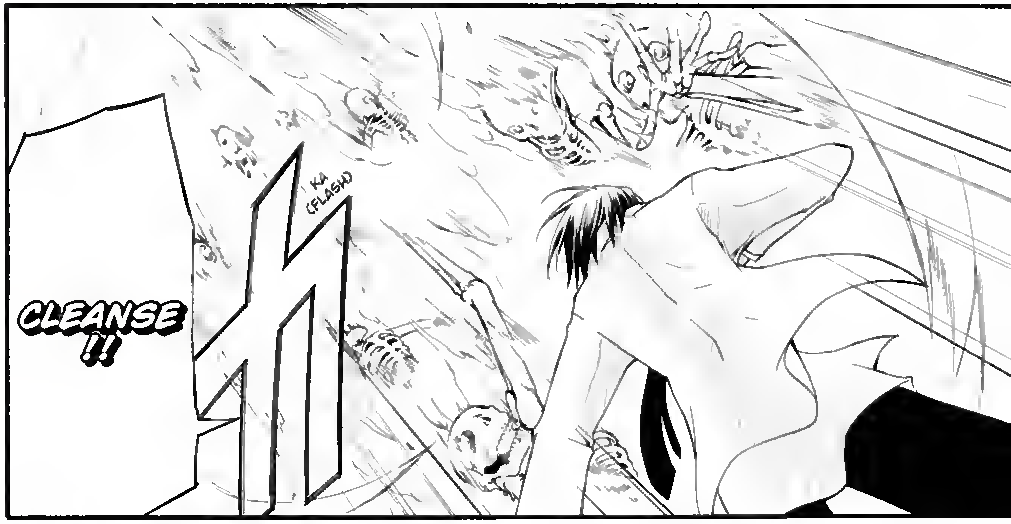
I'LL SHOW YOU THE POWER...
...OF A HALF-VAM-PIRE!

THE REST OF YOU GO AND SLAY THE BOY.
THAT WENCH ...
HOW DARE YOU, HALF-DEMON...!?
GUO (SWOOM)
GO (THWAK)
TSU-KI-MIYA!
GARA (CLATTER)
...I'M FINE.
BUSU (SCORCH)
BUSU
FUHSUU (PSHHH)
FUHSUU
...I SHALL KILL HER MYSELF.

PERIM-
ETER!!

TCH
...!
DAMN
SKEL-
ETONS
ARE IN
MY WAY!
GUWA
(BLAST)

PAK!
(PLINK)
GO
REST IN
PEACE,
ALL OF
YOU!
MUDRA!
EXOR-
CISE!
CLEAR!


CLEANSE
!!
KA
(FLASH)

ACK...
THIS IS
WHY I
HATE
MINIONS!
THEY'RE
INFINITE!
DAM-
MIT!

KATA
KATA
KATA
(KLAK)

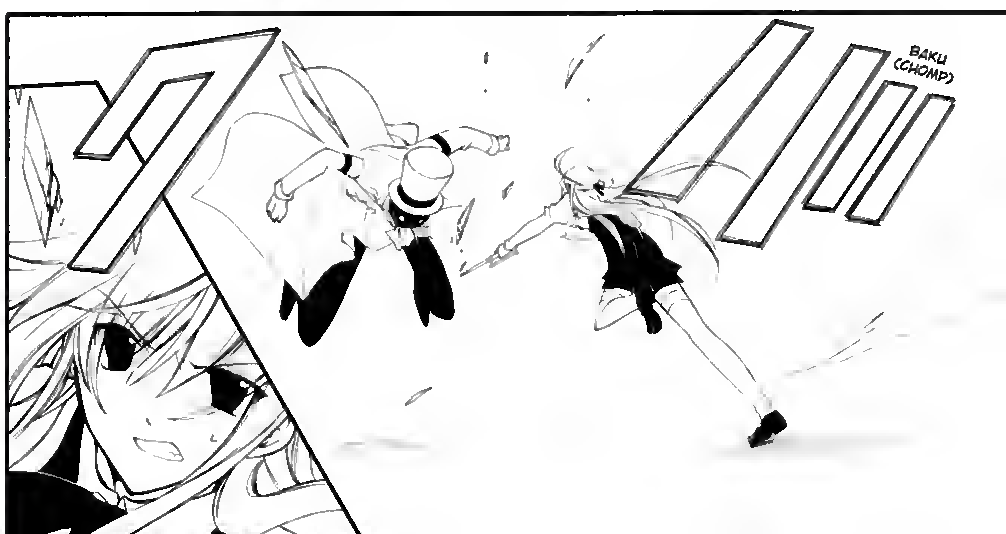
TSUKI-MIYA ...!
A HALF-DEMON CHALLENGING A FULL DEMON IS NONSENSICAL!
GAKIN
GAKIN/ (GACHING)
A HALF-DEMON ALLYING WITH AN ANGEL IS EVEN MORE NONSENSICAL!
WILL YOU SHUT UP ABOUT RACE!?
YOU'RE SO NARROW-MINDED!
ZAA (ZWOOO)
!
KIN (CHINK)
A BARRIER.♥
YOUR BLOOD SHAN'T PIERCE ME ANYMORE.
OH YEAH ...!?
BACHI (ZAP)
KIIN

BEING ANGEL OR DEMON DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
I'VE CHOSEN THE STATUS OF ANGEL OUT OF CONVENIENCE, SO THAT I COULD OBTAIN A PURE DEMON'S BLOOD.

BUT ...
...SINCE I DID CHOOSE TO BE AN ANGEL...
...I'LL TAKE YOUR BLOOD FOR SURE!

FOOL!
GUBAA (GAPE)

BACHI (BZAP)
BACHI


BAKU (CHOMP)

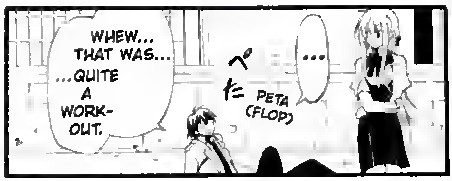
ZA (WHIRL)
BARI (CRUNCH)
BORI (MUNCH)
HALF-WITTED NAIVETÉ LIKE THAT IRKS ME.
YOU'RE FOOLISH FOR A DEMON AND FILTHY FOR AN ANGEL...
THAT SUCH INCHOATE BEINGS ARE HUNTING AND SCORNING DEMONFOLK...
...IS REPUL-SIVE!!
NOW DIE! I'LL PRUNE...
VUVUVU (VWAAAAA)
...THE DISGRACE OF DEMON-FOLK...
...WITH MY VERY OWN HAND!!

...!
DORYU (BLAM)
BYU (ZWISH)
YOU CAN BOTH DIE TOGETHER!!
HA!

ZAA (SWOOSH)
GU (GRAB)
URGH !!?
BITA
BITA (SPLATCH)
SUB-STITU-TION SPELL.
PSYCH!
DOSHU (DWOOSH)
GRGH!
AH!
AHN!
PARA
...THANK YOU.
YOU WERE ...
...A BIG HELP.
PARA (FLUTTER)

...HAS IT REACHED YOUR STOMACH YET?
TELL ME...
PICHI (SNAP)
!?
DOKU (THROB)
?
!?
...BRASS...
...THAT BLADE YOU SWALLOWED...
...GUESS WHAT IT'S MADE OF?
USHI (SPURT)
GAH...

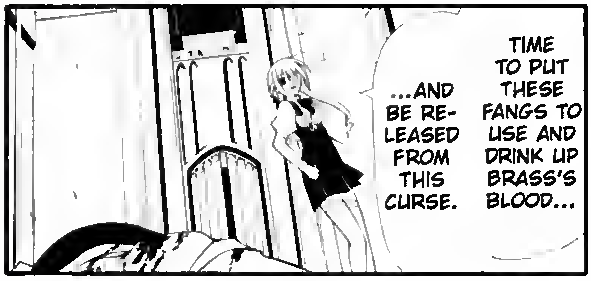
MY BLOOD.
—I'M FINE BEING A HALF-BLOOD.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M NEITHER DEMON NOR ANGEL THAT I AM SO DRIVEN...
...TO SUR-VIVE.

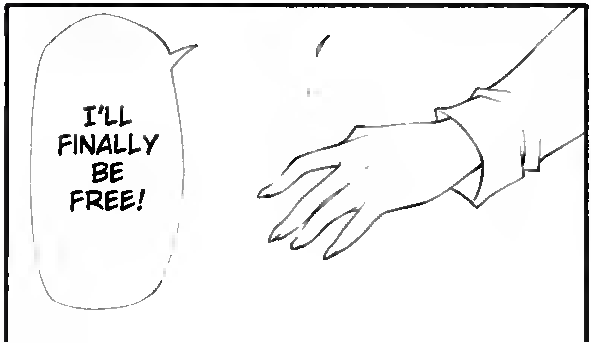

WHEW... THAT WAS... ...QUITE A WORK-OUT.
...
PETA (FLOP)

DOSHA (SPLAT)

YOU'RE PRETTY RASH.
I WAS ALMOST CONVINCED YOU REALLY HAD DIED BACK THERE.

THANKS, HINATA.
BUT... ...I COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN HIM DOWN WITHOUT YOU.


...AND BE RE-LEASED FROM THIS CURSE.
TIME TO PUT THESE FANGS TO USE AND DRINK UP BRASS'S BLOOD...


I'LL FINALLY BE FREE!

(GAKU (SLUMP)
UGH...!
DOKUN
DOKUN
AH!
AAH! GHHK...
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN (THROB)
ACTUALLY, BACK WHEN I... ...FIDDLED WITH YOUR CURSE MARK...
SORRY.
KYUIII (SLITHER)
...I ALSO MADE IT SO THAT ONCE YOU DEFEATED A PURE DEMON...
GOKUN (GULP)
...THE FITS WOULD RESUME.
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN

I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR STRENGTH ...
...SO I COULD UNDO MY OWN CURSE.
SORRY.
I'M A HALF-BREED TOO, TSUKI-MIYA.

...EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET.
DOKUN
(DOKUN-THROB)
HFF!
...SO THAT WAS THE "LIE" I'VE BEEN SENSING...
HFF!

THE MARK REALLY DOES GO AWAY ONCE THE CURSE...
...IS UN-DONE.
SUU (SHOO)

YOU...
...TRICK-ED ME...!
DAN (SLAM)

IT'S UNFORTUNATE... BUT THIS IS WHERE WE PART WAYS.
BRASS'S BLOOD HAS ALREADY BEEN ABSORBED INTO MY BODY.
YOU ONLY HAVE A FEW MINUTES LEFT TO LIVE.

I WAS FINALLY GOING TO END THIS CURSE...
...AND BE SET FREE!
WHY'D I EVEN BOTHER TAKING DOWN BRASS IF THIS IS THE RESULT ...?
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN
HFF!
HFF!

...STARTING TO SHUT DOWN...
MY BODY'S...

...
HFF!

CONSIDER IT YOUR GOD-GIVEN FATE AND JUST ACCEPT IT.
HIRA (WAVE)
HIRA
BYE.

HFF!

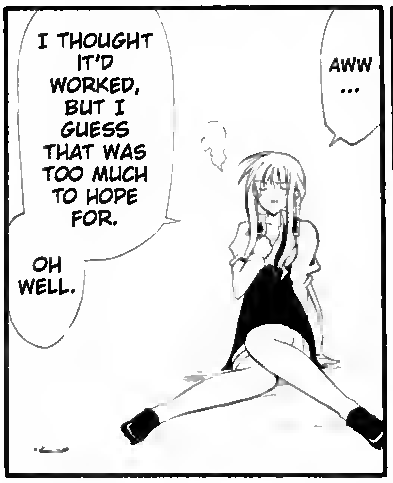
I DID HAVE A BIT OF A THING FOR YOU, BUT...
WELL ...
...I CAN'T BUDGE ON THIS, SO IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.

I GUESS THAT MEANS AN ETERNAL RAIN CHECK...
... ON A KISS TOO.
...
HUH... WELL, ISN'T THAT A CUTE THING TO SAY.
TAN (TMP)
...I COULD'VE SWORN YOU WERE THE ONE GUNNING FOR IT.
BUT...
...I DO.
YOU WANT-ED...
...TO KISS ME THAT BADLY?
HAVING "I WAS TRICKED" AS MY FINAL MEMORY IS AN IN-DIGNITY.
I'D LIKE TO END THINGS... ON A BETTER NOTE.

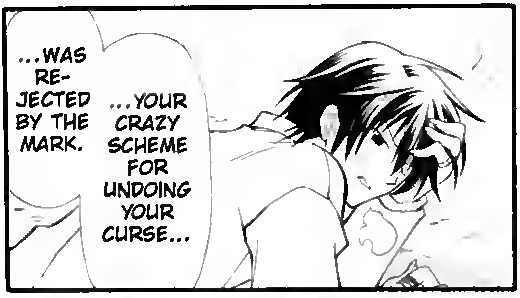
I WANT GO OUT KISSING YOU.
HFF!
...PLEASE?
I HAVE NO STRENGTH LEFT.
LIFT ME?
IT'S ALMOST A SHAME TO LET YOU DIE.
KARI (BITE)

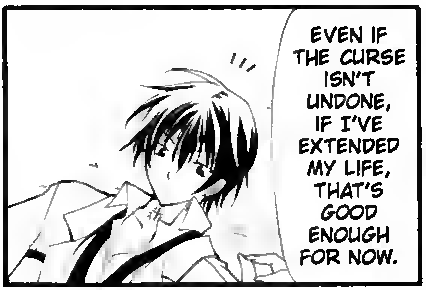
...NICE BLOOD.
DO (THUD)
GAKU (GOLD)
WHA ...!!?
I'VE SUCKED OUT YOUR BLOOD ALONG WITH THAT PURE DEMON'S BLOOD FLOWING WITH IT...
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
KYU (WIPE)
I COULDN'T DIG IN MY FANGS ON MY OWN, SO YOUR FORWARD-NESS WAS A BIG HELP.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE COUNTER-TRICKED?
TH...
...THAT'S DIRTY! FOUL!
!?
GURA (REEL)
WHOA ...
THE HECK ...? I FEEL QUEASY ...
YOU'RE ANEMIC. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET UP FOR A WHILE.
GURA GURA
EVIL BITCH ...
EXCUSE ME, YOU CROSSED ME FIRST.
NOW WE'RE EVEN.

I CAN MOVE AGAIN... AND THE PAIN FROM MY FITS IS GONE.
AND ...
...NOW THIS MARK WILL...
GAH... DAMMIT! I DON'T WANNA DIE YET!
...AND REUSING A PURE DEMON'S BLOOD THAT'S ALREADY UNDONE ANOTHER CURSE!
...BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYONE SUCKING IT BACK OUT...
PARI (CRACKLE)
BACHI
ACH, HOT!
BACHI
BACHI
BACHI (BZAP)
HUH ...?
BACHI
BACHI
BACHI


I THOUGHT IT'D WORKED, BUT I GUESS THAT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR.
AWW...
OH WELL.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED...?
GEEZ... HUH?


...WAS REJECTED BY THE MARK.
...YOUR CRAZY SCHEME FOR UNDOING YOUR CURSE...


EVEN IF THE CURSE ISN'T UNDONE, IF I'VE EXTENDED MY LIFE, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW.

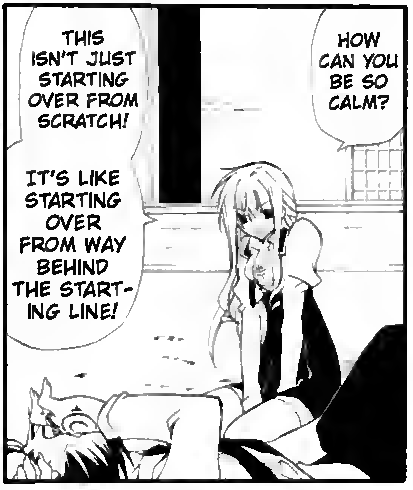
AT LEAST...
...MY FITS ARE GONE... AND I'M STILL ALIVE.

...NOPE, IT SEEMS... ...THINGS AREN'T GONNA BE THAT SIMPLE.
SAAA (PALE)
...

HUH ...?
THIS ...
...IS HALF OF YOUR MARK, ISN'T IT?
SO WE'RE... SHARING THE CURSE?
GAH! UNBELIEVABLE! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENING.
...AND A PIECE SETTLED INTO EACH OF US...
THE CURSE SPLIT IN HALF...
NO WAY.
YOU'RE... KID-DING.
ペたん
PETAN (THMP)
WHA ...?

I'M HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING THE WILL TO LIVE!

WELL ...
...WE EACH DID THE OTHER WRONG ...
...AND WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. IT CAN'T BE HELPED.


HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?
THIS ISN'T JUST STARTING OVER FROM SCRATCH!
IT'S LIKE STARTING OVER FROM WAY BEHIND THE START-ING LINE!

NO WAY ...
THIS KIND OF SHITTY OUTCOME IS JUST WRONG!

BLOODY CROSS

CRISS-
CROSSING
PATTERNS
OF BLOOD
ADORN ME.

Chapter 1
The Mark of a Curse

Chapter 1
The Mark of a Curse

BLOOD IS SWEET LIKE NECTAR...
...ALLURING.
I TOLD YOU I WOULDN'T LET YOU GET AWAY.
NOT YOUR BLOOD...
...AND NOT THE INTEL HIDDEN WITHIN IT.
I'M TAKING BOTH FROM YOU.

OR WILL YOU TRY TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE, DEMON?
DOSU (SHNK)
DOSU
DOSU
DON'T INSULT ME, YOU PITIFUL EXCUSE FOR AN ANGEL!
BA (LEAP)
HAH!
YOU GIVE OFF A CERTAIN...
...SCENT.

GABU (CHOMP)
THE IRRE-SIST-IBLE...
...SWEET AROMA OF DEMON BLOOD!

BIKU
BIKU (TWITCH)
RR... GH...
GOKUN (GULP)
THE RED NECTAR THAT WILL UNDO MY CURSE.
...YOU...! YOU'RE NOT AN ANGEL...
YOU'RE THE PRODUCT OF AN ANGEL AND A VAMPIRE ...!
DOSHA (SPLAT)
TO (STAMP)
KIN (PLINK)
... SIGH ...
AS I FEARED, THIS GRADE OF BLOOD ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH.
TOO BAD.

THIS ...
...MIXED-RACE CURSE OF MINE.

AH, THE FATAL MARK...
... CURSE ...?

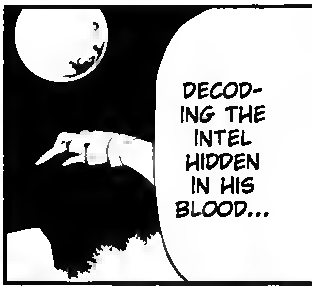
...THAT GOD CONFERS UPON HALF-BREED ANGELS...

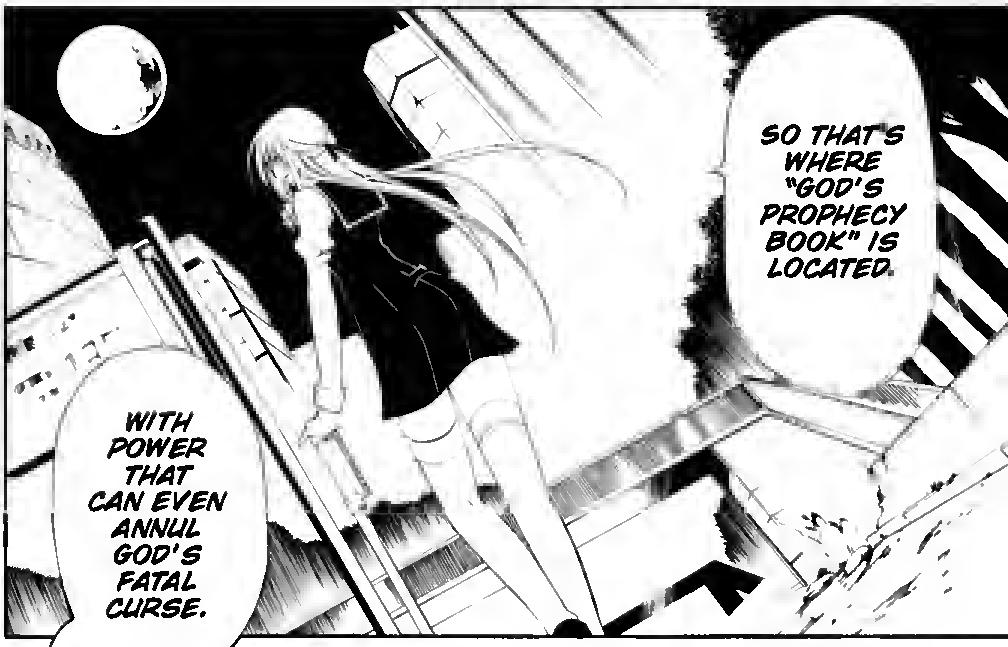
HEH...
THAT'S AMUSING ...

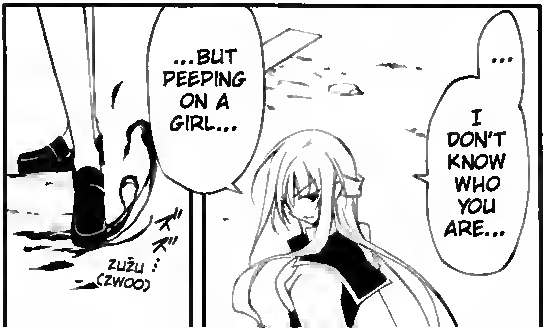
I GUESS I NEED TO STICK TO MY USUAL METHOD...
...OF TARGETING PURE DEMON-QUALITY BLOOD IN ORDER TO ERASE IT.
TSUKIMIYA
<ANGEL+ MIXED RACE>
(HALF-VAMPIRE)

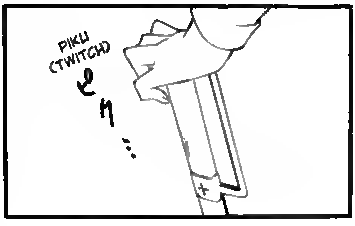
...SO BE HUNTED AND KILLED WITH THOSE WHO SEEK THE "PROPHECY BOOK"...
YOU'RE FATED TO DIE BY THE CURSE ANYWAY...
...YOU FILTHY HALF-BREED ...!!
KLIPA (GLIDE)
...THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SWIPED MY INTEL.
THEY'LL KNOW RIGHT AWAY...
I WAS ORDERED TO KILL YOU.
...HAAH. I WAS ACTUALLY WILLING TO LET YOU GO, EXCEPT...
...YOU'VE REMINDED ME.
キル
DOSHA (SPLAT)

COORDI-
NATES TO
SOME-
WHERE,
EH?
INTER-
ESTING.
KIII
(WEEND
GOKUN
(GULP)
I
SEE...
...
PERO
(LICK)

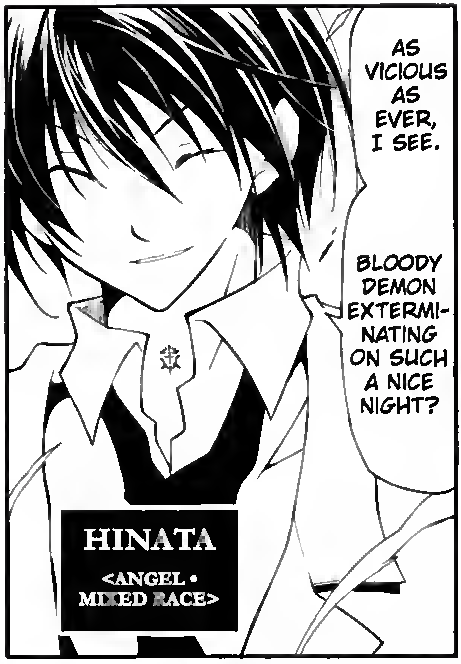

DECOD-
ING THE
INTEL
HIDDEN
IN HIS
BLOOD...


SO THAT'S
WHERE
"GOD'S
PROPHECY
BOOK" IS
LOCATED.
WITH
POWER
THAT
CAN EVEN
ANNUL
GOD'S
FATAL
CURSE.
THE
DIVINE
POWER
OF A
GOD...

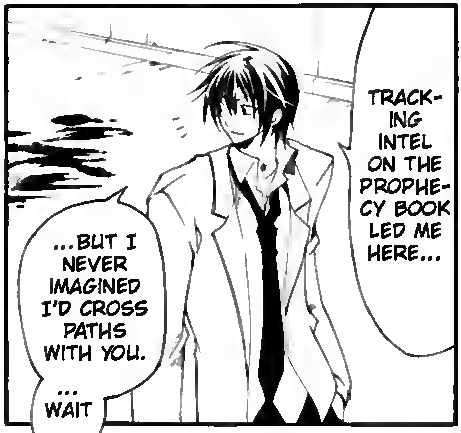

...BUT
PEEPING
ON A
GIRL...
ZUZU :
(ZWOO)
...
I
DON'T
KNOW
WHO
YOU
ARE...


PIKU
(TWITCH)

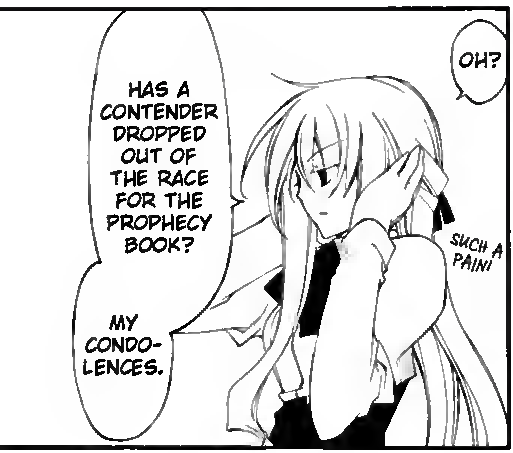
GOO (WHOOSH)
...IS DISGUST-ING...!!
BYU (ZWISH)
GA (GSHH)
TON (TMP)
NH!

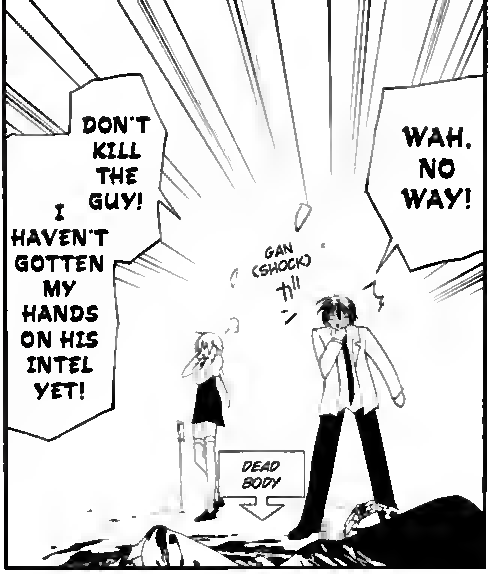

AS VICIOUS AS EVER, I SEE.
BLOODY DEMON EXTERMINATING ON SUCH A NICE NIGHT?
HINATA
<ANGEL • MIXED RACE>

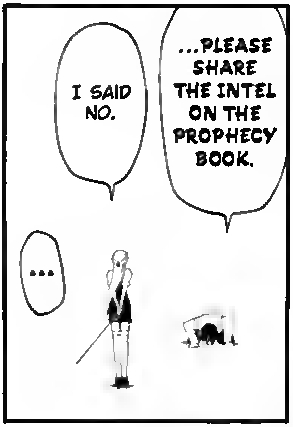
...I JUST HAD TO RUN INTO THIS NUISANCE.
TCH


TRACKING INTEL ON THE PROPHECY BOOK LED ME HERE...
...BUT I NEVER IMAGINED I'D CROSS PATHS WITH YOU.
... WAIT ...

HINATA ...!!
THAT WAS CLOSE.
SHUUU (FZZZ).
HI, TSUKIMIYA.

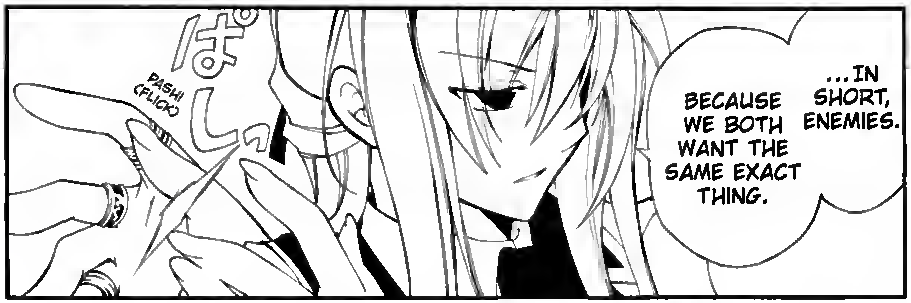


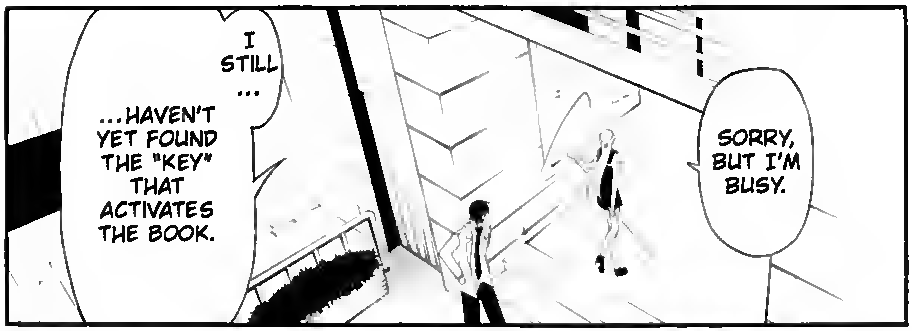




SFX: SUTA (STRIDE) SUTA SUTA

WE'RE COMRADES WHO SHARE THE SAME MIXED-BLOOD CURSE...
PON (PAT)
...RIGHT?


...IN SHORT, ENEMIES.
BECAUSE WE BOTH WANT THE SAME EXACT THING.
PASHI (FLICK)


SORRY, BUT I'M BUSY.
I STILL...
...HAVEN'T YET FOUND THE "KEY" THAT ACTIVATES THE BOOK.

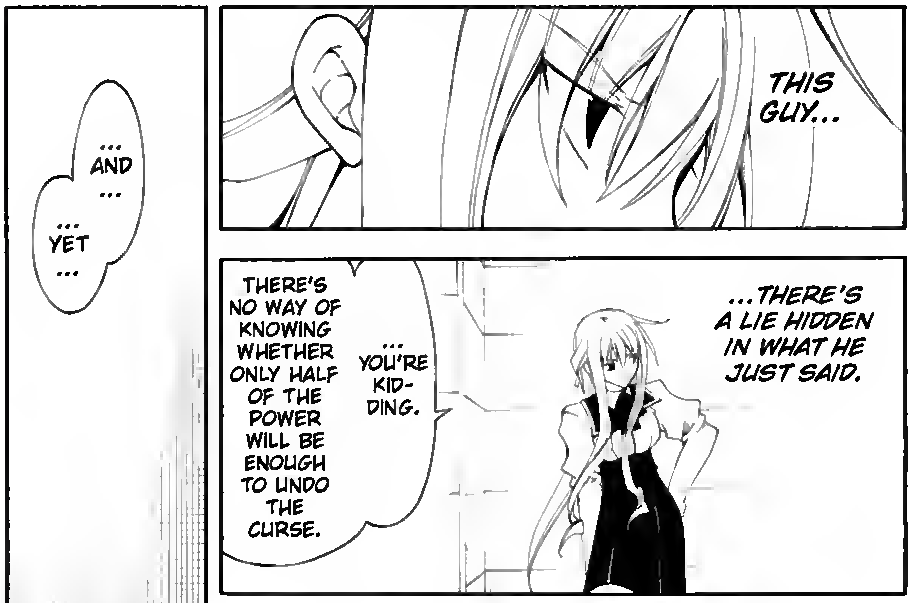
TON (THUMP)
!
SHOULD MAKE THIS A WHOLE LOT QUICKER.
WELL, THAT'S CONVE-NIENT.

...!
THE "KEY," HUH?

WANNA MAKE A DEAL?
ONE THAT'S MUTU-ALLY BENEFI-CIAL?
IF YOU TAKE ME TO THE PROPHECY BOOK...
...I'LL SHARE THE INTEL I'VE COLLECTED IN RETURN. HOW ABOUT IT?
...YOUR INTEL?
THE LOCATION OF...
...THE "KEY."
!

I THINK OUR BEST BET IS TO COOPERATE AND GRAB BOTH BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE BEATS US TO THEM.
OH, AND OF COURSE ...
...WE'D ALSO SHARE THIS DIVINE POWER EQUALLY.
PIKU (TWITCH)

SINCE YOU AND I BOTH...
TON
TON (TMP)
...WANT TO USE THE BOOK'S POWER TO UNDO THIS CURSE.

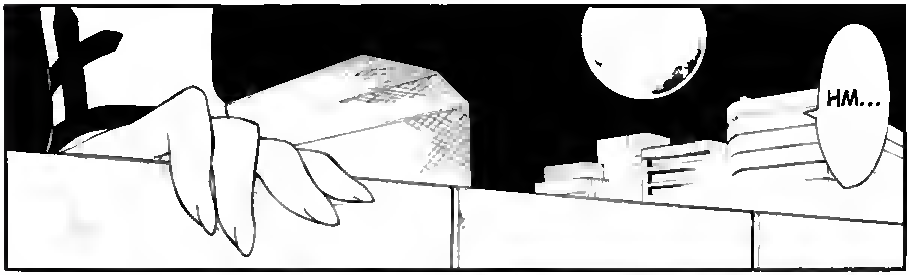

THIS GUY...
...THERE'S A LIE HIDDEN IN WHAT HE JUST SAID.
...YOU'RE KIDDING.
THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER ONLY HALF OF THE POWER WILL BE ENOUGH TO UNDO THE CURSE.
...AND ...
...YET ...

...YOU KNOWING THE LOCATION OF THE KEY CERTAINLY IS CONVENIENT.
TO (HOP)
HEY... I UNDERSTAND WANTING ALL THE PIECES IN HAND, BUT...
...THAT... ...SEEMS A BIT NAIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?
WOULD YOU MIND... ...TELLING ME WHERE IT IS? RIGHT NOW?
GOD'S PROPHECY BOOK IS A SERIOUSLY MAJOR ARTIFACT THAT BOTH DEMONS AND FALLEN ANGELS ARE AFTER
GOING AFTER IT ALONE IS WAY TOO RISKY.
THOUGH I WON'T STOP YOU IF YOU WANNA DIE THAT BAD.
...BESIDES ...
SHURU (SLIP)
!
...SPLITTING THE POWER MIGHT BE A NECESSITY...
TSUUU (STROKE)
?
...!

...IF WE'RE GOING TO UNDO THIS... COMPLI-CATED CURSE...
...THIS UNIQUE "SINGLE MIXED-RACE CURSE SHARED BETWEEN TWO" SITUATION...
...YOU AND I HAVE FOUND OURSELVES IN... SEE?

I GET YOUR REASONING...
...BUT WHETHER I CAN TRUST YOU IS A DIFFERENT STORY.
HAAH... YEESH.
WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME, YOU KNOW.
...THIS CURSE ...
IT'S ...
...BEEN LONG ENOUGH THAT IT MIGHT ACT UP AT ANY MOMENT.
GU (YANK)
AND ONCE THE CURSE IS SET IN MOTION, WE BOTH...
...WILL BE KILLED BY IT.
SO LET'S AGREE TO SHARE THE PRIZE AND DOUBLE OUR STRENGTH ...
...RATHER THAN DIE IN VAIN AND ALONE.
...IS THAT...
...YOUR TRUE INTENTION?
KARI (NIP)
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS TO CONSIDER WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
ON...

YOU'RE NOT STUPID.
YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO TELL... ...WHICH IS THE BETTER OPTION, NO?

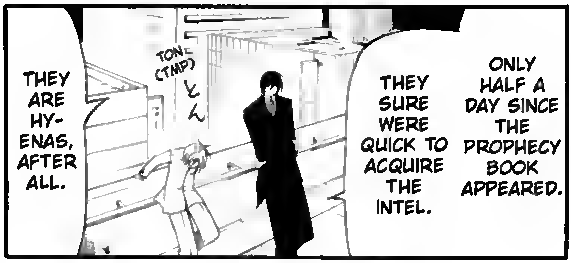

HM...

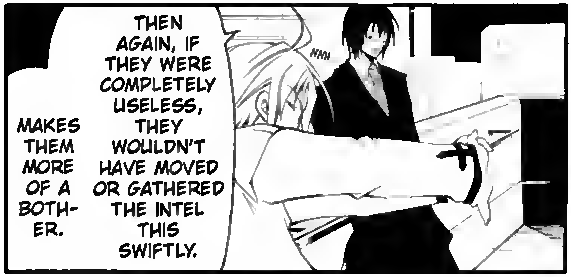
YES.
THOUGH IT'S UNHEARD OF FOR ANGELS TO STEAL GOD'S PROPERTY FOR THEM-SELVES.

TRUE.
BUT SOME-THING ABOUT IT ALSO INTRIGUES ME.

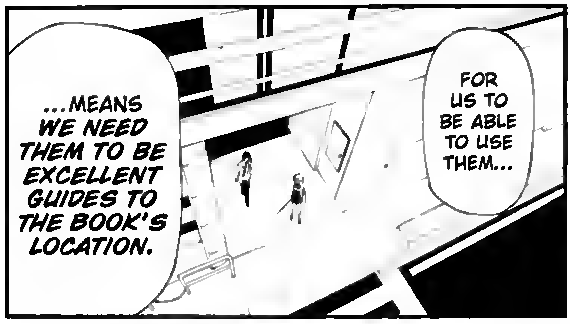
LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL BE GOING AFTER THE PROPHECY BOOK...
...TO-GETH-ER.
. . . .

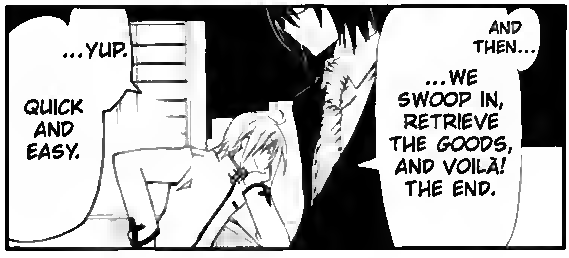
I'LL BE THE ONE CLAIMING BOTH THE BOOK AND ITS KEY.


ONLY HALF A DAY SINCE THE PROPHECY BOOK APPEARED.
THEY SURE WERE QUICK TO ACQUIRE THE INTEL.
TONL (TMP)
THEY ARE HY-ENAS, AFTER ALL.


THEN AGAIN, IF THEY WERE COMPLETELY USELESS, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE MOVED OR GATHERED THE INTEL THIS SWIFTLY.
MAKES THEM MORE OF A BOTH-ER.
HMM

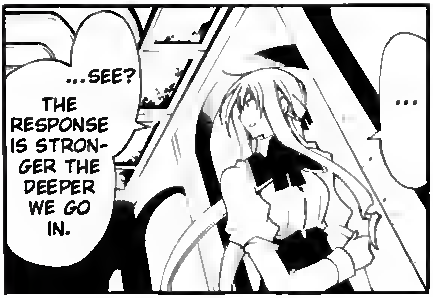
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON WHY THEY'VE ANY VALUE TO US.
SILLY.

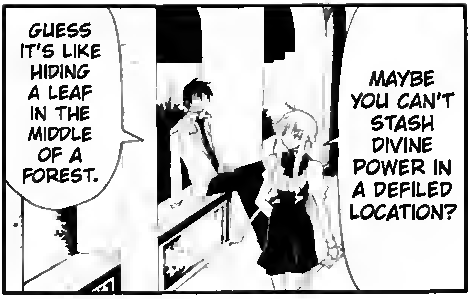

FOR US TO BE ABLE TO USE THEM...
...MEANS WE NEED THEM TO BE EXCELLENT GUIDES TO THE BOOK'S LOCATION.

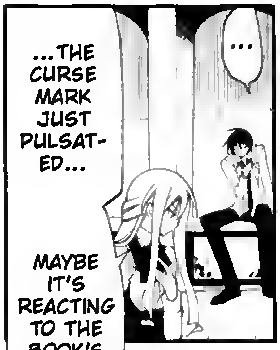

AND THEN...
...WE SWOOP IN, RETRIEVE THE GOODS, AND VOILÀ! THE END.
...YUP.
QUICK AND EASY.

...THIS IS IT.
ACCORDING TO THE INFOR-MATION CONCEALED IN THAT DEMON'S BLOOD...
...THE PROPHECY BOOK IS SUPPOS-EDLY INSIDE THIS CHURCH.
...HUH.

I WAS EXPECTING A SEEDIER SPOT...
...SINCE IT'S A DEMON'S CACHE AND ALL.
THAT'S SURPRISING.


...SEE? THE RESPONSE IS STRONGER THE DEEPER WE GO IN.
...

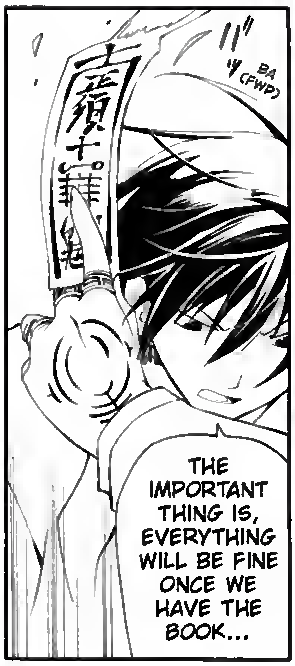

GUESS IT'S LIKE HIDING A LEAF IN THE MIDDLE OF A FOREST.
MAYBE YOU CAN'T STASH DIVINE POWER IN A DEFILED LOCATION?


...
...THE CURSE MARK JUST PULSATED...
MAYBE IT'S REACTING TO THE BOOK'S POWER?

... YEAH.
HOPE THAT'S ALL IT IS.

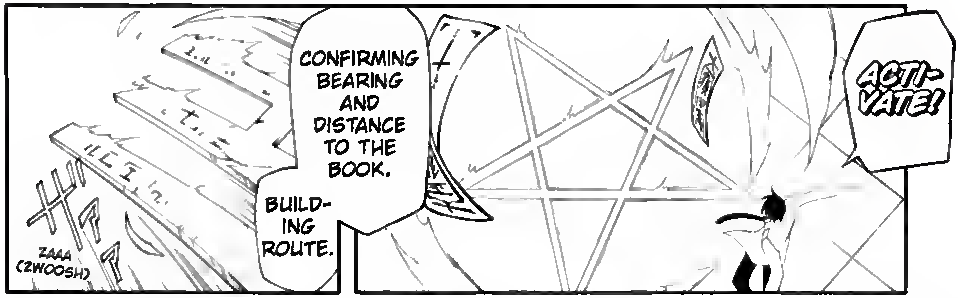
HUH?

TOKUN (THROB)
!


BA (PWP)
THE IMPORTANT THING IS, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE ONCE WE HAVE THE BOOK...

IT COULD BE A NASTY SIGN THAT THE MIXED-RACE CURSE ...
...HAS FINALLY REACTI-VATED.
WHO KNOWS?

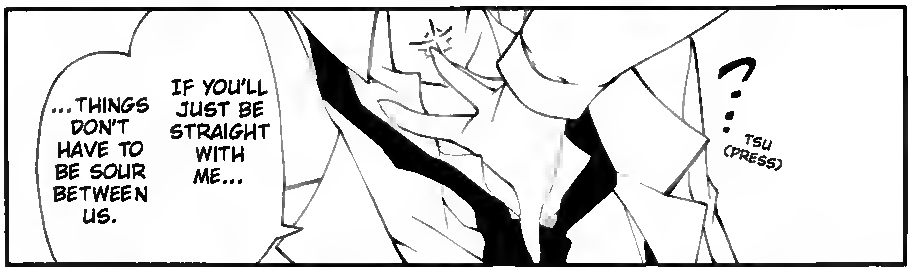
I MEAN, IT'S NOT OUTSIDE THE REALM OF POSSI-BILITY!
...IT FEELS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE WHEN THE CURSE FIRST STARTS STIRRING.
WELL
KI (GLARE)
...I HEY!
DON'T SAY THAT! YOU'LL JINX US!


ZAAA (ZWOOSH)
CONFIRMING BEARING AND DISTANCE TO THE BOOK.
BUILD-ING ROUTE.
ACTI-VATE!

LET'S TAKE THIS SHORT-CUT.
I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'D BETTER HURRY.

INTER-ESTING SPELL.
USE-FUL.
LITTLE TRICKS LIKE THIS ARE MY SPE-CIALTY.
IN RETURN, I EXPECT A LOT FROM YOU IN BATTLE, TSUKIMIYA.
OKAY?
... HMM.
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE SCHEMING TO TRAP ME INSIDE THERE...
...AND STEAL THE PROPHECY BOOK WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE.
GIKU (GULP)
NO! ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
OH?
PFFT!
YOUR REAC-TION...
...TELLS ME I HIT THE BULL'S-EYE.
JUST REMEM-BER...

I...
...AM A HALF-DEMON...
...SO I CAN TELL IF YOU'RE LYING.


...THINGS DON'T HAVE TO BE SOUR BETWEEN US.
IF YOU'LL JUST BE STRAIGHT WITH ME...
?!
TSU (PRESS)

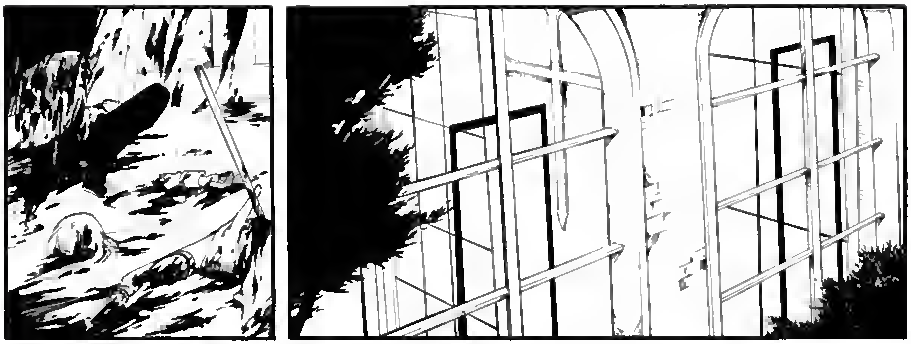
I'M ...
...NOT LYING, RIGHT?
YOU'RE NOT.
NOT NOW.

...
YEESH.
YOU DON'T TRUST ME AT ALL!
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE THE "KEY" IS ONCE WE'VE SECURED THE BOOK.

...I'D REALLY PREFER CONFIRMING YOUR INTEL AHEAD OF TIME, THOUGH. CAN'T YOU EVEN GIVE ME A HINT AS TO WHERE THIS "KEY" IS?

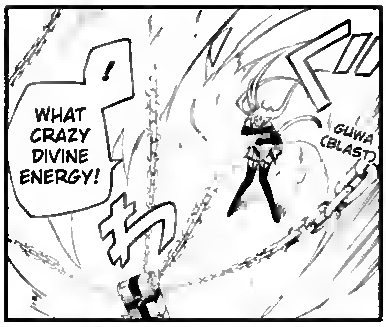
NO CAN DO.
YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE GET THE BOOK.
HIRA
HIRA (WAVE)
C'MON, LET'S GO.
...THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PROBE HIM.
TCH
HINATA... YOU REALLY ARE QUITE THE FIBBER.
...
HEY
...
...ONE MORE THING.
YOU PROMISE YOU'LL SHARE THE DIVINE POWER WITH ME?
...THAT'S RIGHT.
EVENLY, IN TWO EQUAL PARTS.
...SO...
...WE DO AGREE ON THAT POINT...

I INTEND TO KEEP THE DIVINE POWER FOR MYSELF AS WELL.

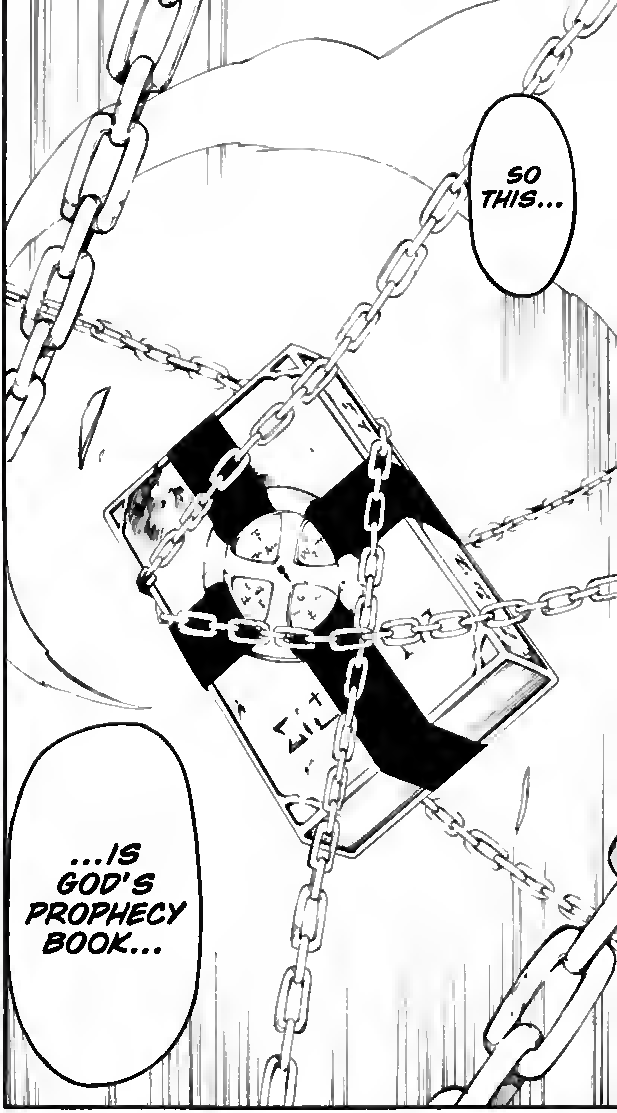


AWW, BORING!

MO-
MOSE
...
...HATES
WEAK-
LINGS!
MOMOSE
<DEMON>
MOMOSE WAS SUP-POSED TO STEAL THE BOOK ALL ALONG ...
...BUT THEN YOU GUYS MADE OFF WITH IT AND RAN SO FAR AWAY!
UGH ...
YOU BIG JERKS!
HURRY UP AND DIE!
GUSHA (SPLASH)
TON (TMP)
BLEH!
STUPID.


!
WHAT CRAZY DIVINE ENERGY!
GUWA (BLAST)

HA.
SURE SEEMS WORTH DEFILING TO ME! ♡

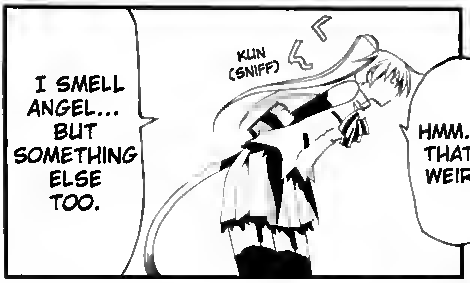

SO THIS...
...IS GOD'S PROPHECY BOOK...

STEP THROUGH AND WE'LL BE AT THE BOOK.

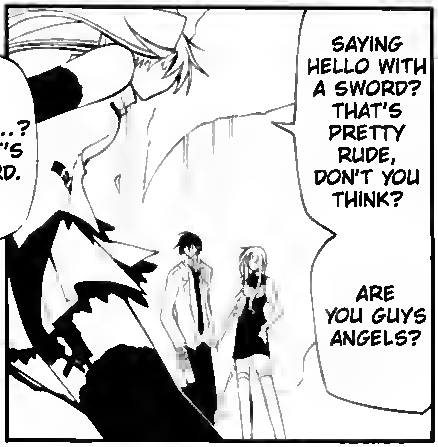
HMM. I SENSE DEMONIC PRESENCE ALONG WITH THE BOOK'S CALL.
KA (CLICK)
カッ…
SEE? AREN'T YOU GLAD WE'RE COOPER-ATING?
NOT QUITE YET... IF YOU ONLY END UP BEING A HINDRANCE IN BATTLE, I'LL REGRET THIS.
I'LL BE HAPPY ONCE YOU PROVE THAT I DIDN'T MAKE A HUGE MISTAKE...
...TEAMING UP WITH YOU TO UNDO THIS CURSE.
POK (PAT)
ぽん
WELL?
WILL YOU KISS ME IF I DO COME THROUGH?
I'M NOT SEEING THE MERIT IN THAT...
ISN'T ...
...THE PRIZE OF DIVINE POWER ENOUGH?
NOT THAT I'LL GIVE YOU ANY.
KOO (VWOO)
オー
I'M GOING!
GUN (WHIRL)

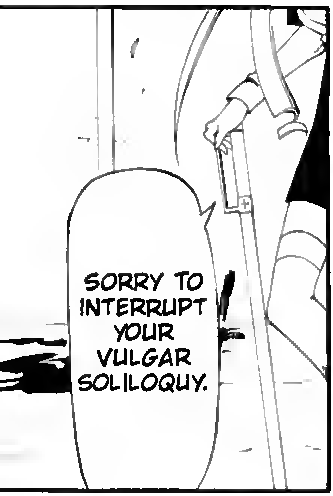
!
GRR.
GOO (VOOSH)
TAN (TAP)
たん
...HUH?

DEMONS? IT'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL AND A BUNCH OF CORPSES.
GRR ...

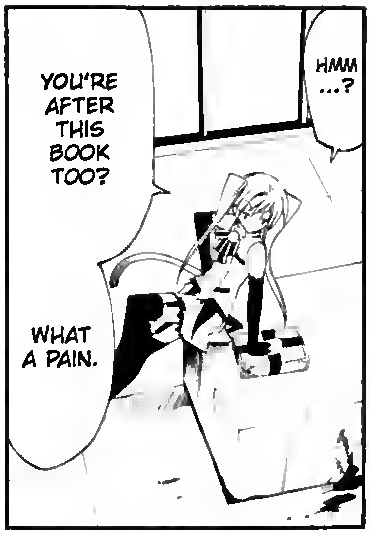

I SMELL ANGEL... BUT SOMETHING ELSE TOO.
KUN (SNIFF)
HMM...? THAT'S WEIRD.

... AH!


SAYING HELLO WITH A SWORD? THAT'S PRETTY RUDE, DON'T YOU THINK?
ARE YOU GUYS ANGELS?


SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR VULGAR SOLILOQUY.

YOU'RE THOSE GROSS MIXED-RACE GUYS?
MY FIRST SIGHTING!


HMM ...?
YOU'RE AFTER THIS BOOK TOO?
WHAT A PAIN.

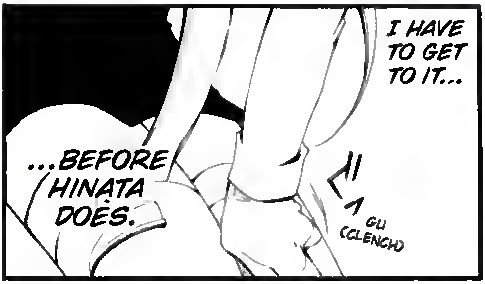
FUON (TWIRL)
... WELL ...
...FINE, THEN.
ZUZU (SNOOP)
ZU

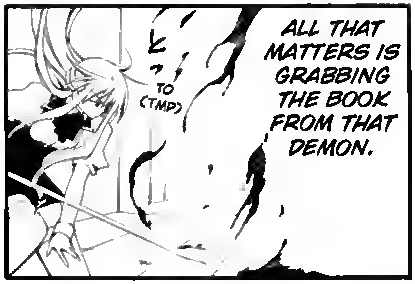
THAT BOOK ...
YOU MIND HANDING IT OVER...
... DEMON?

ZU
ZU
ZU

AS A SPECIAL TREAT...
...MOMOSE WILL PLAY WITH YOU.
KILL THEM! AND MAKE IT HURT!
BYU (ZWISH)
I WANNA SEE PULPY CORPSES!
LEAVE THE HEADS, BUT EAT UP THE REST OF THEM!
DOGA (SLAM)
GOOD PLAN.
EXCEPT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU LIKE THAT.

ZA
(SLASH)


I HAVE TO GET TO IT...
...BEFORE HINATA DOES.
GU
(CLENCH)


ALL THAT MATTERS IS GRABBING THE BOOK FROM THAT DEMON.
TO
(TMP)

KOO
(FWOOM)
SIMPLE MAGIC SQUARE !!
I'M THE ONE WHO WILL UNDO THE CURSE...!
OM

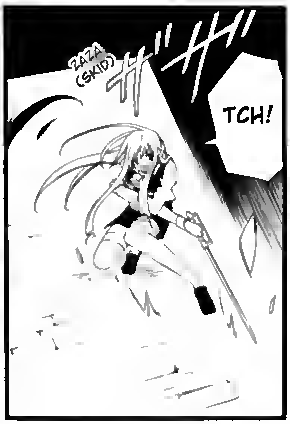
CRUCI-FORM!
RAN-DOM BAR-RAGE!
KUI (FLIP)
HMPH.
PRO-TECT.
DO
DO
DO
DO (THUK)
BLEH!
MOMOSE CAN KEEP SUM-MONING MORE!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE MOMOSE.
TATA (TATAK)
TCH!
LITTLE NUI-SANCE!
BOTO (BLOP)
BOTO

CAN'T YOU GUESS?
NOPE.
THOUGH ...
...NOT KNOWING ISN'T A PROBLEM.
...WHAT THIS STUFF YOU'RE THROWING AROUND IS.
I WON-DER...
OH?
TON (TMP)
SINCE... THEY'LL STOP MOVING ANYWAY AFTER I'VE KILLED YOU.

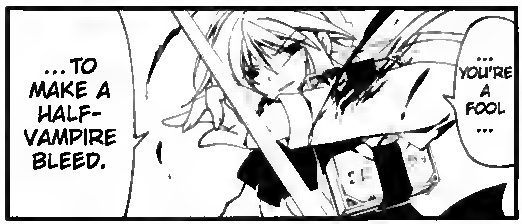
HA!
ZAA (SWOOSH)
NGH ...!
WELL, MOMOSE'S NOT TELLING YOU!
WANNA KNOW WHAT THESE ARE?
HEE HEE!
HEE!

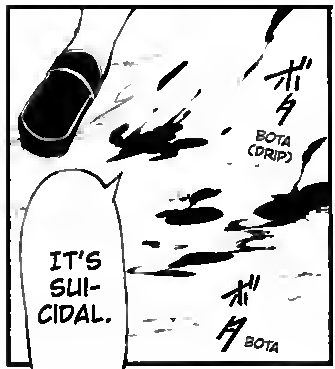
GASHA (SMASH)

HA!


ZAZA (SHIO)
TCH!

TSU-KIMI-YA!?
OUT-SIDER


...TO MAKE A HALF-VAMPIRE BLEED.
... YOU'RE A FOOL ...


BOTA (DRIP)
IT'S SUI-CIDAL.
BOTA

!?

JAA (SLASH)

WHAT THE ...?
BLOOD!?
GYURU (WHIP)
WAH ...!
DIE!
FU (FFT)
...!!
SHE VANISHED ...!?
JIJI (SZZT)

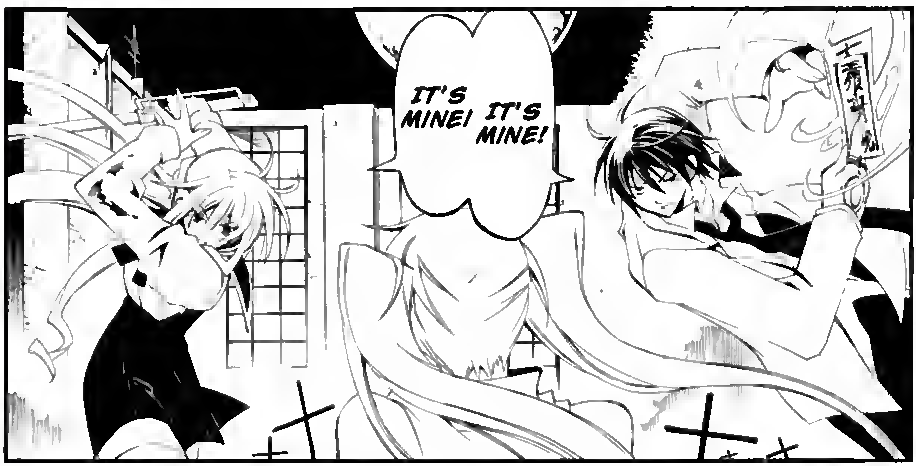
UNH ...!!
ZUZUZU CZWOOO
CLOSE! TOO CLOSE!

HEE!
HEE HEE!
HEE!
...CAN DIE IF HER BODY'S HURT TOO BADLY, RIGHT?
... HEY ...
... EVEN A VAMPIRE WHO COMMANDS BLOOD ...
SHADOWS ...!!
SHADOWS ARE WHAT THIS DEMON MANIPULATES!
DO
DO
DO
DO (THD)
FIRE!
RE-LOAD!
CAREFUL!
THAT DEMON ESCAPED INSIDE A SHAD—
EEK!
DOPU (CLUNK)
IS THE BOOK SAFE?
TA (TMP)
YEAH ...
RIGHT HERE.

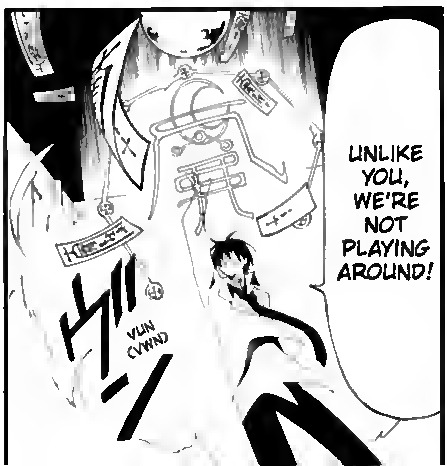
...WHAT
SU (SLIP)
...I THOUGHT...
...WE WERE IN A PARTNER-SHIP TO UNDO OUR CURSE?
OH, SURE.
NOTH-IN'.
JUST FELT LIKE HOLDING ONTO THE BOOK.
I SWEAR I HAVEN'T BETRAYED YOU.
I'M HANGING ON TO THE BOOK, THAT'S ALL.
YOU...

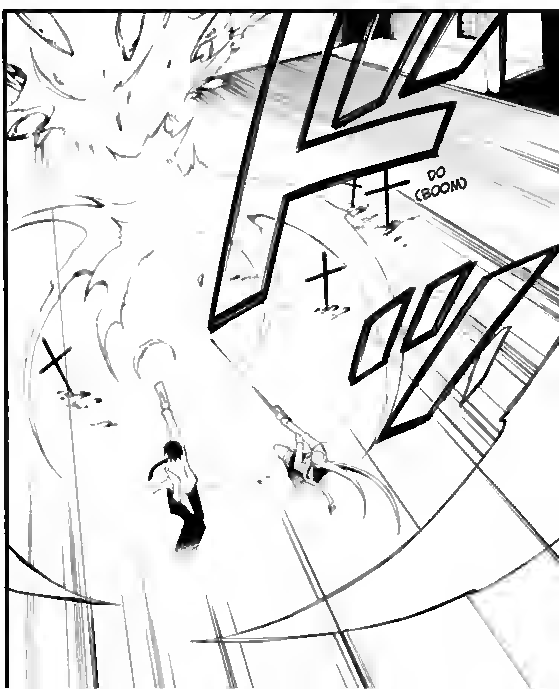
THAT'S RIGHT.
"OUR" PROPHECY BOOK.
"OUR" PROPHECY BOOK, RIGHT?
YURA (WAVER)
GA (CHK)
GA
GOTO (KLUNK)
GEEZ.
HALF-BREEDS SURE ARE STUPID.
NOT THAT IT MATTERS, BUT...
...DID YOU GUYS FORGET YOU'RE FIGHTING MOMOSE?

THE PROPHECY BOOK HAS BEEN MOMOSE'S ALL ALONG.


IT'S MINE!
IT'S MINE!

YOU PESKY ...!
GUWA (JURGH)


UNLIKE YOU, WE'RE NOT PLAYING AROUND!
YUIN (YWN)


DO (BOOM)

RADIANT CLEANSE!
KA (FLASH)
MOON-LIGHT SHADOW SCOUR!
AND YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
...IS WITHIN REACH.
THE MEANS TO UNDO THE CURSE ON MY BODY...
KATSU (TOK)
SO BRIGHT!
UNNH...
MY SHADOWS...

DO (SHNK)
BLOOD IMPAL-ERS!

GOTO (KLUNK)

GOT THE BOOK!

NOW BE GOOD AND BEGONE!

...
RIGHT.
NOW WE NEED TO GET THE KEY.
...

AND WITH THE DEMON VAPORIZED...
...THE FIRST STEP'S BEEN CLEARED.

WORKING TOGETHER MADE IT GO SMOOTHLY, EH?
YEAH.

REAL SMOOTH.

HEY...
...DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR SOMETHING... IF THINGS WENT WELL?

HM?
OH...
YOU MEAN THE "WILL YOU KISS ME IF I COME THROUGH" PART...?

KUI (TUG)

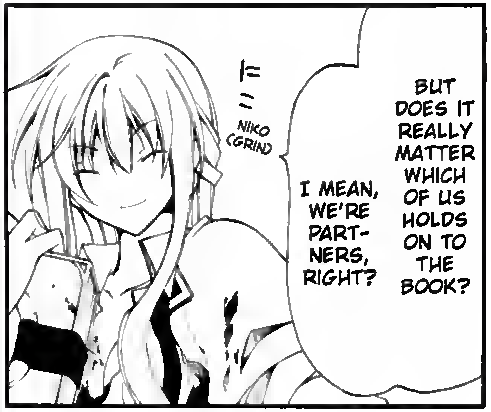
I GET IN THE MOOD SOME-TIMES.
OH?
... WOW.
YOU KISSED ME. THAT'S RARE.
IN FACT ...
...I THINK I WANT MORE.

...WE WON'T BE SHARING THIS CURSE FOR MUCH LONGER MAKES ME HAPPY.
KNOWING...
NOT "I'M GONNA BE FREED OF THE CURSE"?
.....
FOR YOU TO STAY ON THE RECEIVING END IS RARE.
YEAH? BUT I'M SO ENJOYING MYSELF.
HUH.
SO WAS IT A GOOD REWARD?

...MM?
HUH?
THE BOOK
TO-TALLY.
WELL...
...NOW THAT THE BOOK IS SAFELY IN OUR HANDS...
...MIND TELLING ME THE LOCATION ...
...OF THE PROPHECY BOOK'S "KEY?"

NOW HURRY UP AND TELL ME WHERE THE KEY IS.

...YOU'RE AWFUL!
YES, I AM.
WHICH IS WHY I WAS ABLE TO GRAB IT SO EASILY.


BUT DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHICH OF US HOLDS ON TO THE BOOK?
I MEAN, WE'RE PART-NERS, RIGHT?
NIKO (GRIN)

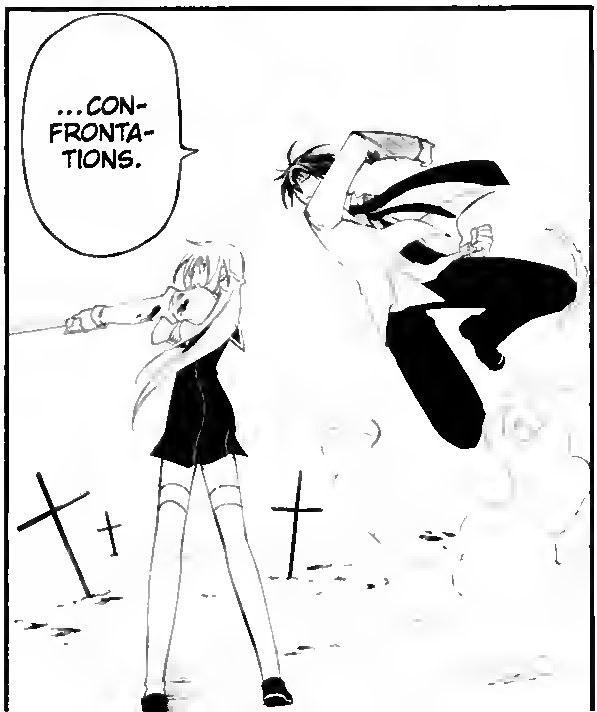
UNLESS YOU'RE THINKING OF CLAIMING IT ALL FOR YOUR-SELF...
...THAT IS.

...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT COME TO THIS, SO I TOOK MY OWN LITTLE PRECAUTIONS TOO.
...WELL...

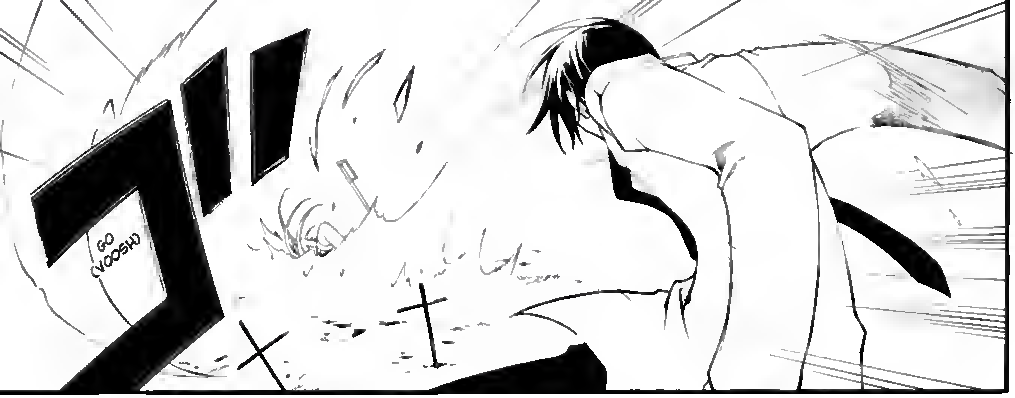
...MM...

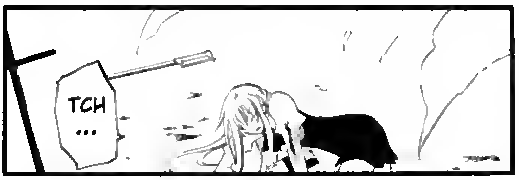
BA (LEAP)
...!

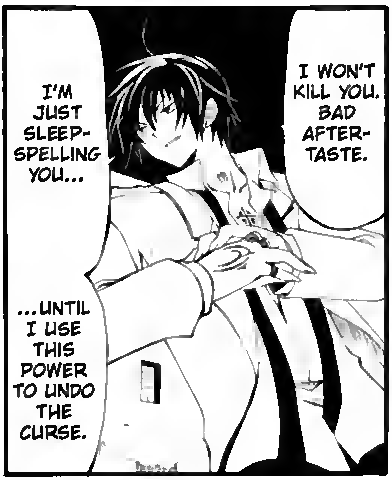
I REALLY DON'T CARE FOR... ...THESE ...
HAAH... MAN.


...CON-FRONTA-TIONS.

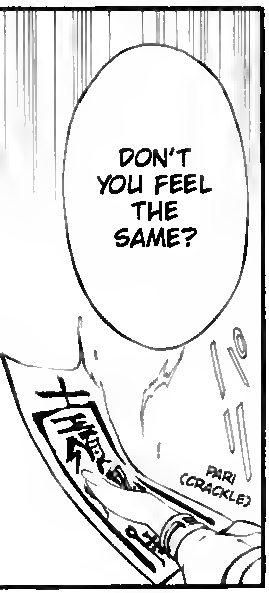
TON (TAP)
A TOXIC HEX THAT PREVENTS YOU FROM WEAPON-IZING YOUR BLOOD.
PASSED MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.


GO (WOOSH)


TCH ...


I WON'T KILL YOU. BAD AFTER-TASTE.
I'M JUST SLEEP-SPELLING YOU...
...UNTIL I USE THIS POWER TO UNDO THE CURSE.

DAN (SLAM)


DON'T YOU FEEL THE SAME?
PARI (CRACKLE)

...BUT MY TOP PRIORITY IS MY OWN SURVIVAL.
SORRY ...

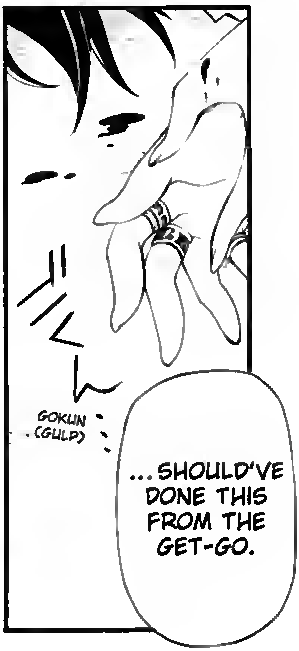
GIRI (SQUEEZE)
NOT YOUR LIFE.

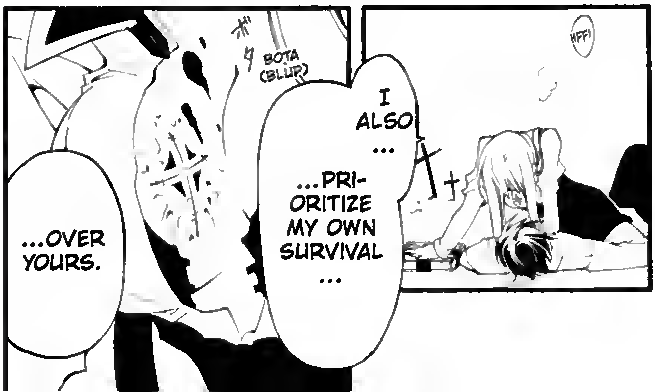
DOKU (THROB)
THE CURSE IS STARTING UP AFTER ALL...!
DOKUN
DAM-MIT!
DOKUN
IT'S... THE MARK!
GH ...!
DOKUN
AH!
DOKUN
DOKUN

I'M GONNA ...
DOKUN
DOKUN
... BLACK OUT FROM THE PAIN...
... NH!
GIRI (GRIND)
TELL ME WHERE ...
...THE KEY IS!
DOKUN
DOKUN
HEH ... IT AIN'T ...
...MUCH OF A THREAT WITH-OUT A WEAPON TO BACK IT UP.
...A WEAPON, YOU SAY?
GU (PRESS)
I'VE GOT ONE.

GABU (CHOMP)

KIII (VWEEND)
FROM YOUR BLOOD ...
...I'M ABLE TO EXTRACT THE INTEL ON THE BOOK'S KEY.


GOKUN (GULP)
...SHOULD'VE DONE THIS FROM THE GET-GO.


BOTA (BLUP)
...OVER YOURS.
I ALSO ...
...PRI-ORITIZE MY OWN SURVIVAL ...
HFF!

HAAH...
DOKUN (THROB)
...AND NOW WE'RE VYING FOR THE SAME DIVINE POWER... HUH?
FIGHTING OVER THE SAME DEMON'S BLOOD RESULTED IN US JOINTLY SHARING A CURSE...
DOKUN
THIS IS BULLSHIT.
GRI (GRIT)
THAT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
OF COURSE WE'RE BOTH DESPERATE ENOUGH TO USE ANY DIRTY TACTICS TO SUCCEED.
IF I WEREN'T BOUND BY THIS SHARED CURSE...
...I'D AT LEAST BE ABLE TO SURVIVE IN SOME COMFORT!!

YOU'RE SO STUPID.
DOSU (WHUD)
BOTH OF YOU SHOULD JUST DIE!

YOU GUYS ARE ANGELS...
...BUT YOU'RE SO EAGER TO BACKSTAB EACH OTHER.
PFFT!
BUT IT IS PRETTY FUNNY.
WAAH ...!
POI (TOSS)
DOSHA (SPLAT)

ALL OF YOU HALF-BREEDS ...
...ARE BARBARIC, DISGUSTING LOWLIFES.
HFF!
DOKUN (THROB)
DOKUN
AH, BUT MAYBE ...
...YOU CAN'T HELP IT, BEING MIXED-RACE.
GU (GRAB)
LEGGO OF THE BOOK!
RRH!
GUGUGU
GUGU (TUG)
HA...
NEVER.
YOU IRRITATING LITTLE BRAT.

ZAA (ZWSH)

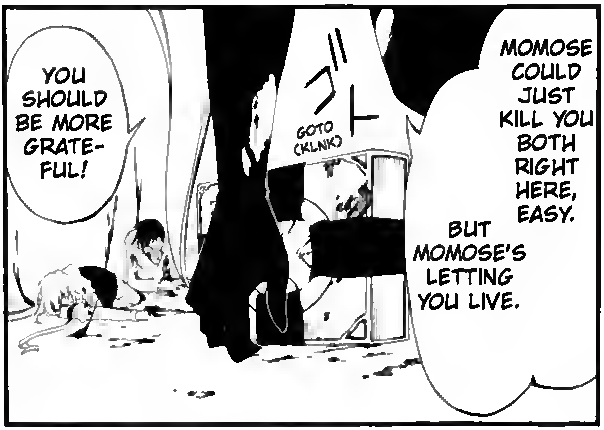
UGH!
DOSU (THK)

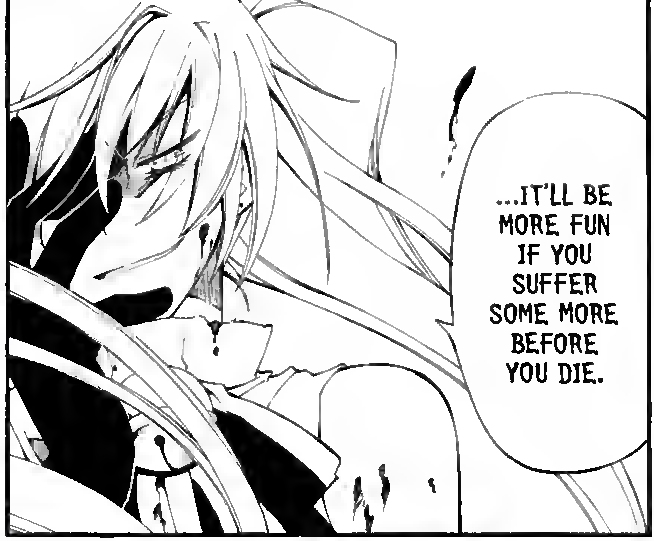
DOSU

YEAH.
ON THAT COUNT, I FIERCELY AGREE.

YOU GUYS REALLY DON'T GET IT.

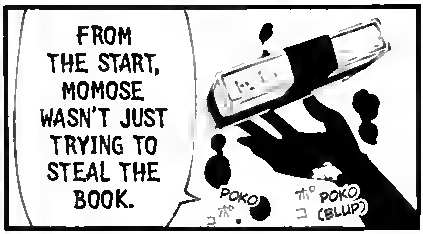
DOKUN (THROB)
...HOW SWEET.
NOW WHY'RE YOU LETTING US LIVE?
DOKUN


YOU SHOULD BE MORE GRATE-FUL!
GOTO (KLNK)
MOMOSE COULD JUST KILL YOU BOTH RIGHT HERE, EASY.
BUT MOMOSE'S LETTING YOU LIVE.


...IT'LL BE MORE FUN IF YOU SUFFER SOME MORE BEFORE YOU DIE.

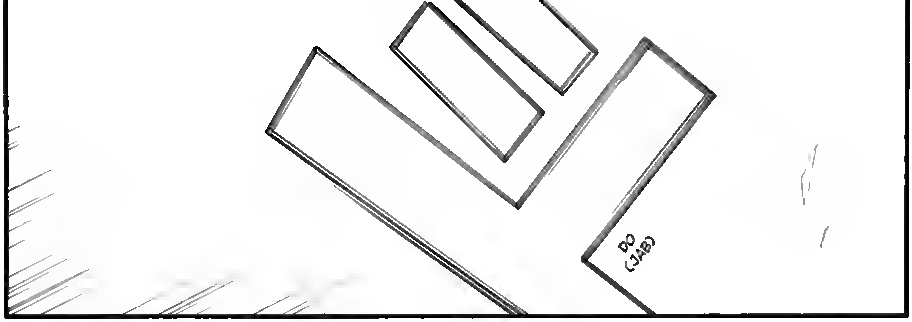
HEE HEH!
HEE!
YOU SEE...

ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
MOMOSE'S GONNA TURN THIS PROPHECY BOOK PITCH-BLACK...
...RIGHT BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!


FROM THE START, MOMOSE WASN'T JUST TRYING TO STEAL THE BOOK.
POKO
ポコ
POKO (BLUP)

BOKO (BLURP)
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
ボコ
BOKO
MOMOSE WANTS TO DEFILE THE DIVINE POWER SO ANGELS CAN'T TOUCH IT!

!!

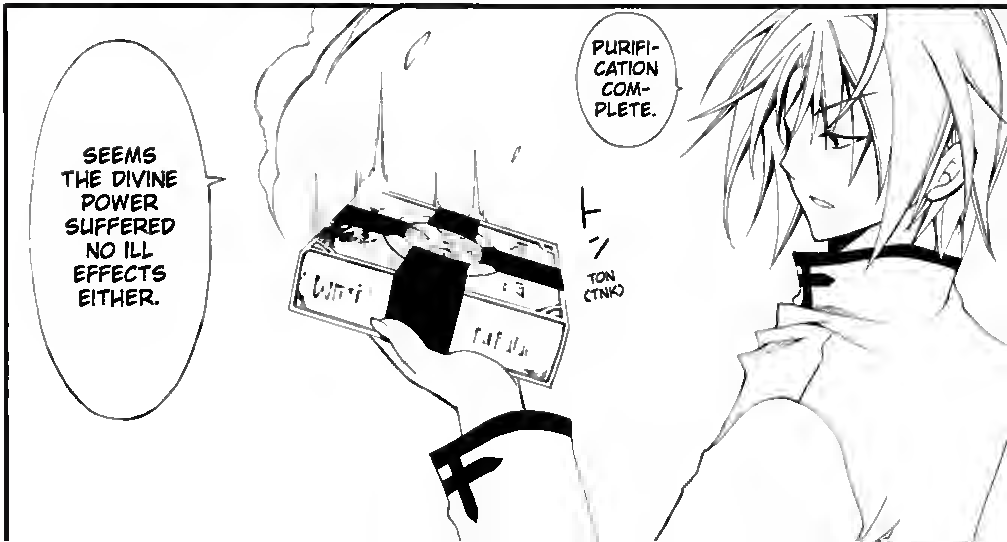

BO
(JAB)

BOTA
(BLOP)
BOTA

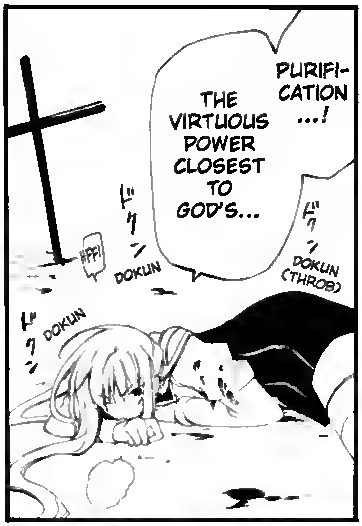
...CAT?
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO DEFILE IT...

SHA (SWISH)
TCH!
...YOU'RE...!
BE-GONE!
AN ENEMY...!?
TSUKA
TSUKA (STRIDE)
HMPH.
WHO IS HE...?
DOKUN (THROB)
DOKUN
SU (FSH)
EXORCISE ALL EVIL TAINT.
PURIFI-CATION!

PAAN
(WHOOP)


PURIFI-
CATION
COM-
PLETE.
TON
(TINK)
SEEMS
THE DIVINE
POWER
SUFFERED
NO ILL
EFFECTS
EITHER.

HE'S GOTTA BE...
...AN ANGEL.


PURIFI-CATION ...!
THE VIRTUOUS POWER CLOSEST TO GOD'S...
DOKUN
DOKUN (THROB)
DOKUN
DOKUN

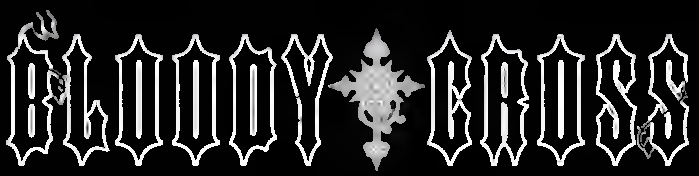
YEAH ...
A POWER NO DEMON, HUMAN, OR MIXED-RACE...
...IS PERMITTED TO POSSESS.
DOKUN
DOKUN

SUU (SHHP)
THE CURSE IS BEING SUPPRESSED...
THE PAIN IS GONE...
!?
TOKUN (THMP)
TOKUN
THE MARK ...!
COULD IT BE?
THAT DIVINE POWER... IS LEAKING OUT OF THE BOOK.
POWER THAT CAN STOP OUR CURSE.
...THE BOOK ...
...IS PROBABLY RESPONDING TO THAT ANGEL.
HAAH ...
TO MAKE THE BOOK EMIT ITS POWER WITHOUT THE KEY...
...HE MUST BE A TRUE ANGEL.
THAT ASSHOLE! FLAUNTING THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STATUSES RIGHT IN FRONT OF US...
...WHILE WE MIXED-RACE ANGELS BICKER LIKE CHILDREN.
PISSES ME OFF.

...HE'S RIGHT...
...BUT... NOW IT'S CLEAR.
THE DIVINE POWER IMBUED IN THAT PROPHECY BOOK...
GYU (CLUTCH)
...CAN DEFINITELY COUNTER-ACT THIS CURSE MARK!
...I WANT IT!!
TSU (LIFT)
WELL.
NOW WE CAN FINALLY TALK.

WILL YOU TELL ME WHERE THE KEY IS...
...OR DIE WHERE YOU SIT?
WHICH WILL IT BE?

CHOOSE, MIXED-BLOODS.


BLOODY CROSS

BLOODY CROSS

"COMPETE OVER IT IF YOU WANT TO ERASE YOUR CURSE AND SURVIVE."

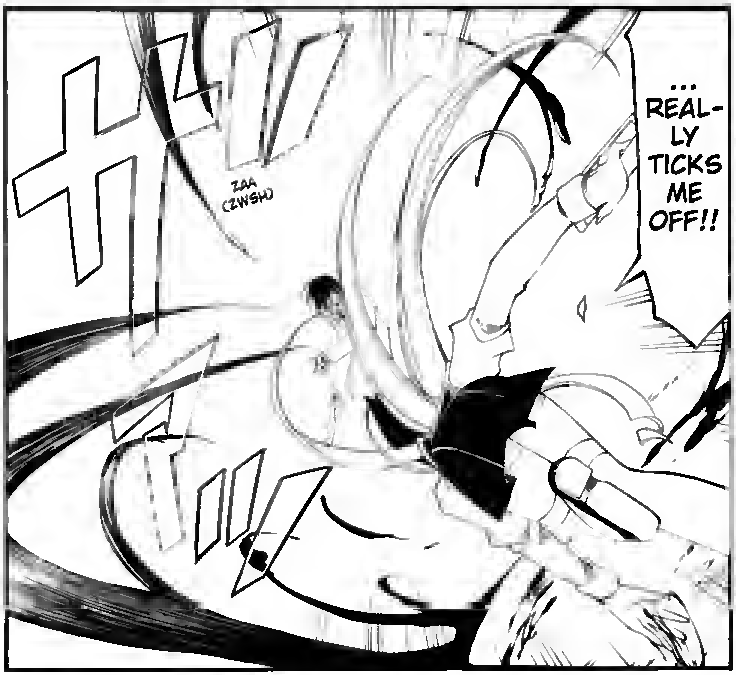
WELL.
I AIN'T LETTING YOU HAVE IT!
I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT!

BECAUSE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE BOOK'S KEY...
...ONLY ONE OF US...
...WILL BE LEFT ALIVE!

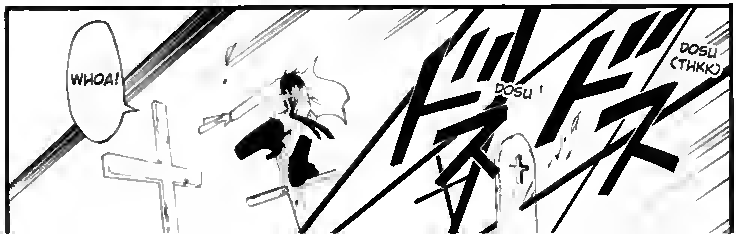
Chapter 2
The Prophecy Book's Key

DOON (GOON)

IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN.


ZAA (ZWSH)
...REAL-LY TICKS ME OFF!!

KARI (SUTE)
...BEING USED AS SOMEONE ELSE'S PAWN...
BE-SIDES ...


WHOA!
DOSU (THKK)
DOSU!

GO (VOOSH)
YIKES!!
PASHI (SNAG)
SO I'D REALLY PREFER TO JUST GET THIS OVER WITH!
YOU RUN AROUND TOO MUCH.
IF YOU AREN'T SERIOUS ABOUT THIS...
...HURRY UP AND DIE, OR SURRENDER!
HOW CAN YOU WILLINGLY OBEY THAT ASSHOLE ANGEL...
... AND ...
...TREAT ME LIKE THIS?

WE'RE FELLOW SUFFERERS OF THE SAME UNHAPPY FATE.
!
ZAAL (ZAWOOSH)
ACTI-VATE!
I THINK WE COULD STAND TO BE A LITTLE NICER TO EACH OTHER.
NICER... HUH?
SU (CREAK)

AND EXACTLY HOW...
...WOULD THIS "NICE" TREATMENT GO, HMM?
WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD ASK ME POLITELY...
...TO PARTNER WITH YOU TO NULLIFY THIS CURSE TOGETHER...
...OR SOMETHING.
BUT THAT SEEMS CONTRARY TO OUR PURPOSES, DON'T YOU THINK?

IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE NOT BOTH ALLOWED TO SURVIVE THAT WE'RE AT ODDS AT THE MOMENT...
...RIGHT?
BUT A FAIR ARGU-MENT.
SO COLD.
GOOON
CRLANG

GOOON
GOOON
MID-NIGHT.
GOOON
THE KEY'S HIDDEN LOCATION APPEARS.
SO THIS ...
ZAAA GENGOGO

...IS THE CHURCH WHERE THE BOOK'S KEY "AP-PEARS."
I SEE.
HIRA (WAVE)
HIRA
I CAN'T GET MOTIVATED WITHOUT THE PRIZE IN FRONT OF ME.
OH?
NO MORE LACKA-DAISICAL WARM-UP DRILLS?
LET'S CONTINUE THIS INSIDE.
.....
KNOWING THAT EVEN IF WE DO ACQUIRE IT, WE HAVE TO HAND IT OVER TO THAT ANGEL...
...IS A REAL SLAP IN THE FACE.

GO RETRIEVE THE KEY?
TSUZUKI
<PUREBLOOD ANGEL>
RIGHT.
WANT TO BE CONFINED UNTIL YOU DIE?
OH?
YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND?
...WHY SHOULD WE AGREE TO BECOME YOUR LACKEYS?
PISHARI (SNAP)
FOR YOU? I DON'T THINK SO.
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE ATTI-TUDE?
THINK ABOUT THE POSITION YOU RE
HEH.
SORRY TO DISAP-POINT, BUT...
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW THE KEY'S LOCATION?

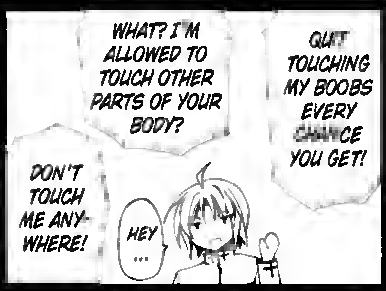
...THAT ONE RAN HIS MOUTH OFF EARLIER, SO I ALREADY HAVE IT.
BISHI (POINT)
GATA (THMP)
WHAT!? HINATA!!
AH, YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT!
AND THEN...
...HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO TRADE HIS INTEL FOR SOME DIVINE POWER.
HOW DARE YOU NEGOTIATE BEHIND MY BACK ON YOUR OWN AND THEN BOTCH IT!?
SHAD-DUP
IT GAVE ME A GOOD IDEA, THOUGH.
MAKING THE TWO OF YOU COMPETE OVER RECOVERING THE KEY...
...COULD BE FUN.
...YOU'RE A DESPICABLE PUREBLOOD ANGEL IF PITTING YOUR OWN KIND AGAINST EACH OTHER IS "FUN."
UNBE-LIEV-ABLE!
I'M SO SHOCKED BY THE WHOLE THING, I'VE LOST ALL WILL!
KACHI (CHK)
YOU KNOW, YOU SEEM AWFULLY COMPOSED...
OH? WHAT A SHAME.

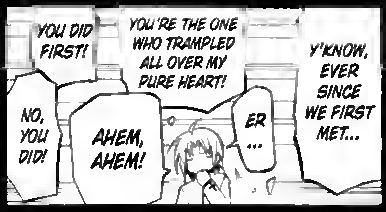
...FOR SOMEONE WITH LESS THAN A DAY TO LIVE.
YOU'VE BOTH REACHED YOUR LIMIT, RIGHT?
NOW THAT YOUR MIXED-RACE CURSE HAS BEEN ACTIVATED.
YOU'RE ONLY UP AND ABOUT NOW THANKS TO THE BOOK'S POWER
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING US.
I KNOW MY OWN BODY.
HINATA! I GET YOU BITING YOUR TONGUE AFTER BLOWING THE NEGOTIATION, BUT THIS IS WHEN YOU SHOULD BE SPEAKING UP!
ISN'T THAT YOUR SPE-CIALTY?
WHAT IS NOW?
WHY AREN'T YOU SWAPPING SARCASM WITH THAT PURE-BLOOD?
ISN'T THAT YOUR SPE-CIALTY?
NO, IT IS NOT!
(POINT)
...AH, SORRY... THAT'S RIGHT...

むにゅ
MUNI (SQUISH)
...THIS IS YOUR SPECIALTY, AIN'T IT?

WHY'RE YOU PICKIN' A FIGHT WITH ME?
MISHI (GRIND)

GAN (BANG)


WHAT? I'M ALLOWED TO TOUCH OTHER PARTS OF YOUR BODY?
QUIT TOUCHING MY BOOBS EVERY CHANCE YOU GET!
DON'T TOUCH ME ANY-WHERE!
HEY...

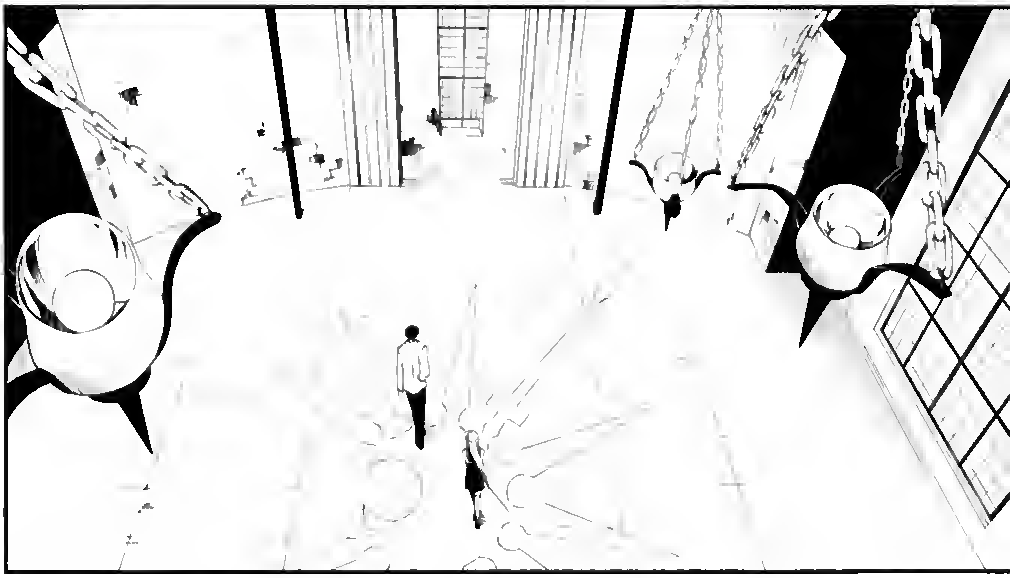

YOU DID FIRST!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TRAMPLED ALL OVER MY PURE HEART!
Y'KNOW, EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET...
NO, YOU DID!
AHEM, AHEM!
ER...

QUIT FLIRTING, YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS.

I'M THE CENTER OF THE WORLD WHEN I'M TALKING.
DON'T INTER-RUPT.
SO!
BACK TO YOU GETTING THAT KEY FOR ME!
YOUR MAJESTY...
WHO'RE YOU CALLING "LOVE-BIRDS"?!
NOW, IF YOU'RE NOT STUPID, LISTEN CLOSELY.
WELL...
...MORE ACCU-RATELY...
I'M WILLING TO EXTEND YOUR LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE KEY.
PIKU (TWITCH)

TON (TNK)
...I'LL UNDO THE CURSE OF WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU BRINGS ME THE KEY...
...USING THIS BOOK'S DIVINE POWER.
!!
FINALLY GOT YOUR ATTENTION, DID I?
SLOW-POKES.
SO...
...YOU'D BETTER KEEP ME ENTER-TAINED...
...AND PUT ON A GOOD, FIERCE BATTLE FIGHTING FOR THE KEY.

JUST RECALLING THAT PUREBLOOD'S WORDS RAISES MY HACKLES.
IRA (IRK)
...

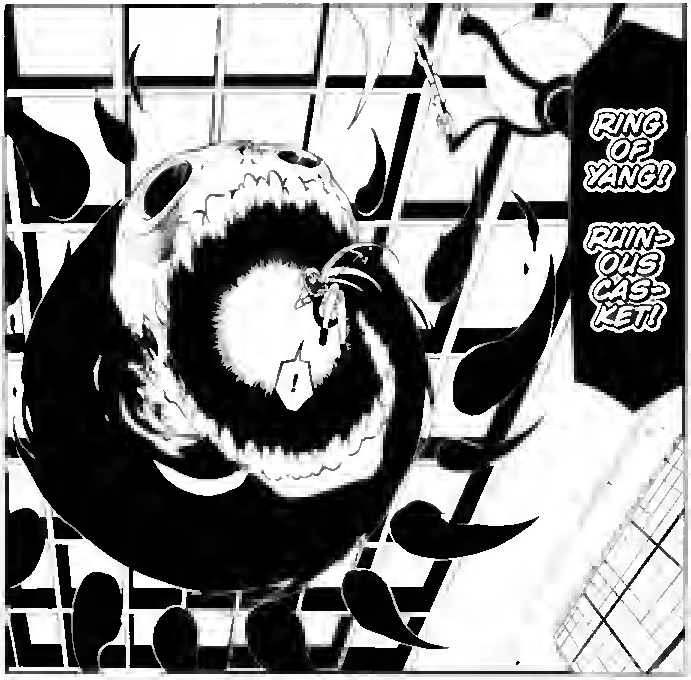


THE MARK'S ... REACTING TO THE KEY'S PRESENCE.
...
TOKUN (THROB)
TOKUN

THOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
AND...
DITTO.
...BEING TOLD I HAVE LESS THAN A DAY TO LIVE DOESN'T EXCITE ME.
Y'KNOW, I'VE BEEN SKIRTING DEATH SO LONG NOW...

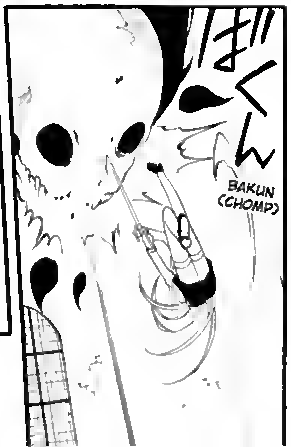
...IT IS UNDENIABLY TRUE THAT I DO NOT WANT TO DIE YET.
ME NEI-THER.
NO HARD FEELINGS, OKAY?
ON THE OTHER HAND...
TA (DASH)
ZUZU (ZWOO)
ACTU-ALIZE!

GUN (ZWIPE)


RING OF YANG!
RUIN-OUS CAS-KET!

...ONE OF US WILL HOLD A GRUDGE ...
...NO MATTER WHO KILLS WHO, RIGHT?
SHAN (JANGLE)

WELL, YEAH.
KLIN (CLINK)


BAKUN (CHOMP)

GO (THWAK)
DON'T BE BITTER AND COME BACK TO HAUNT ME!
TA (TMP)
I REALLY DON'T CARE FOR HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT,
SORRY, BUT ...
...YOU'RE GONNA BE THE ONE HAUNTING ME.
GAKUN (SLUMP)
MY BODY FEELS HEAVY...
...!?
=OM=
!

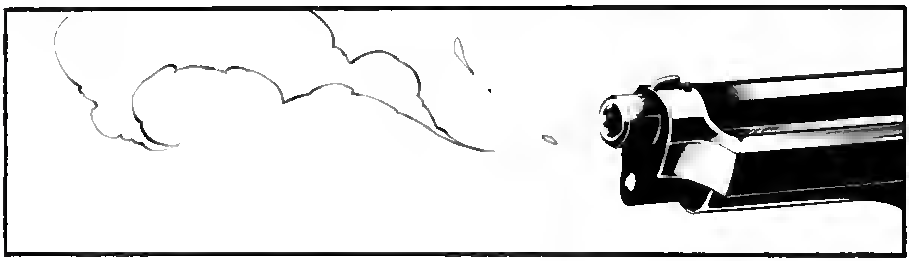
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU (SLAM)
...WHAT THE ...?
YOU'RE ACTUALLY FIGHTING FOR REAL THIS TIME?
WELL, TRUTHFULLY...
...I'VE BEEN TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY FROM THE START. I JUST NEEDED TIME TO SET UP.
YOUR BODY...
SHAN (JANGLE)
...FEEL TOO HEAVY TO MOVE?
NIKO (GRIN)
IT'S A LITTLE...
...SPELL I PLACED ON YOU.

RE-STRAIN!!
DOSU
DOSU (THK)
STIMU-LATE!
DO (SHNK)
AHH...!
...NH.
...MY, MY...
...YOU SURE FIGHT DIRTY!
CHAKI (KLAK)
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT AS A COMPLI-MENT.

UNH...
GU (STAB)
...TSUKIMIYA.
DIE FOR ME...
GIRI (GRIT)
I...
...AM NOT...
BOTA
BOTA (BLUP)
HA-HA... VERY FUNNY.

GUWA (BLAST)
...GONNA LET YOU KILL ME!!
...HA! THOUGHT YOU MIGHT RETALIATE WITH BLOOD.
BA (FWP)
GA (GRAB)
YOU ...
SU (FSH)
...ARE THE ONE WHO WILL DIE!!

1
10
PAN
(BLAM)



THANKS FOR THE PERFECTLY-TIMED ASSIS-TANCE.
... YIKES.
DOSA (THUD)
I DON'T WANNA DIE EITHER.
...
THAT'S WHY I ACTED MORE CARE-FULLY...
...MORE COOL-HEADED THAN YOU...
...TO GUAR-ANTEE I WOULD WIN.
SORRY ...
...FOR THE TROU-BLE.

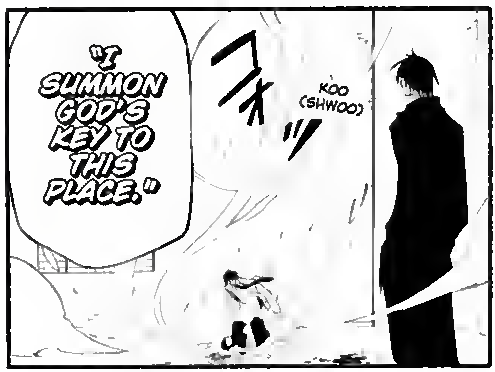
I'M GLAD TO HAVE BEEN OF USE.
HANAMURA
<TSUZUKI'S ATTENDANT>

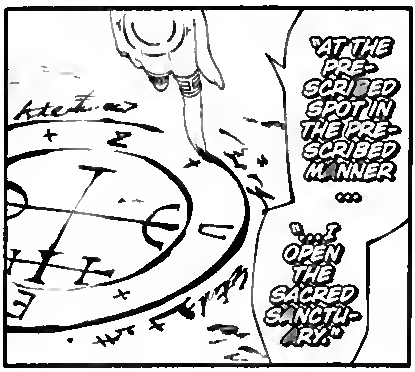
KOTSU (TOK)

PASHI (SNAG)
HYU (TOSS)
I WAS ONLY FOLLOWING ORDERS TO AID YOU IF YOU WERE AT A DISADVANTAGE.
NOT THE MOST FAVORABLE TASK, TO BE HONEST.
...
...OH, YEAH?

WELL, IT DIDN'T MATTER WHICH OF YOU WON, SO LONG AS I ACQUIRED THE DESIRED ITEM.
...You just all-around ain't cute, are you.
Did it?
...PURE-BLOOD.
ALLYING WITH YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR THE KEY INTEL CAME IN HANDY...
GOOD.
GORI (NUDGE)
SHE TRULY IS DEAD, THEN.
YOU HAVEN'T SHARED THE PROCEDURE WITH US, AFTER ALL.
...AS AGREED, WOULD YOU MAKE THE KEY APPEAR?
ANYWAY, WE'VE FOLLOWED THROUGH ON OUR END, SO...
HAVE IT BACK
POI (TOSS)
WELL, SHUCKS, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
...Yeah?
TCH
...MR. PRE-TEN-TIOUS.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN FASTER IF YOU HAD JUST TOLD US...

NGH
ZA (SCRAPE)
BUT IF I HAD TOLD YOU...
...YOU'D PROBABLY HAVE HELD ME PRISONER UNTIL MY LIFE RAN OUT.


"I SUMMON GOD'S KEY TO THIS PLACE."
KOO (SHWOO)


"AT THE PRE-SCRIBED SPOT IN THE PRE-SCRIBED MANNER ∞
"...I OPEN THE SACRED SANCTU-ARY."

SHUN (WHOOSH)

NOW.
THIS SHOULD DO IT, EH?
HERE'S THE PROPH-ECY BOOK'S KEY YOU WANTED.
CHARI (CLINK)
SO AS SOON AS YOU UNDO MY CURSE USING THE BOOK'S POWER, OUR BARGAIN...
...WILL BE FUL-FILLED.
NO COM-PLAINTS, RIGHT?
AND I'VE COMPLIED WITH YOUR UNFATHOM-ABLE REQUEST TO COMPETE AGAINST TSUKIMIYA TOO.
... INDEED.

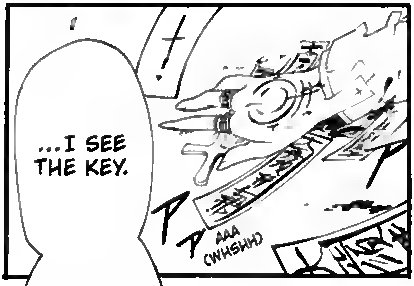
DON (BLAM)
ZAZA (SKID)
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WE CAN NOW ACHIEVE OUR GOAL.
...!

MY MASTER NEVER INTENDED ...
...TO SHARE THE DIVINE POWER WITH EITHER OF YOU.
EXCEPT... YOU WITHHELD THE KEY'S SUMMONING METHOD...
...AND WE HAD REASONS FOR WANTING THIS SPECTACLE PERFORMED IN FRONT OF THE KEY.
GIRI (GRIT)
SO WE HAD YOU PLAY YOUR PART...
...IN THIS FARCE TO RECOVER THE KEY.
WELL ...
...IF YOU HAD REALLY THOUGHT ON IT...

IT'S OVER. I'LL BE TAKING THE KEY.
...THERE'S NO WAY WE WOULD EVER WHOLE-HEARTEDLY TRUST...
...AND PARTNER WITH A TOTAL STRANGER.
WOULD YOU?
Given that you would have died imprisoned otherwise...
...you're lucky you got to be outside again.
GU (SQUEEZE)
NOW...
...PLEASE GO TO YOUR DEATH.

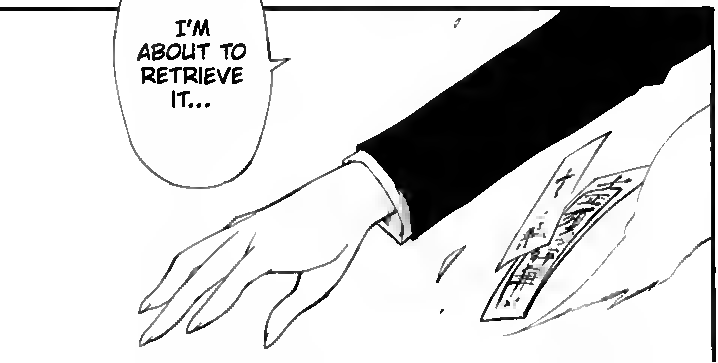
DON
(BLAM)

A DUMMY!?


...I SEE THE KEY.
AAA
(WHISH)

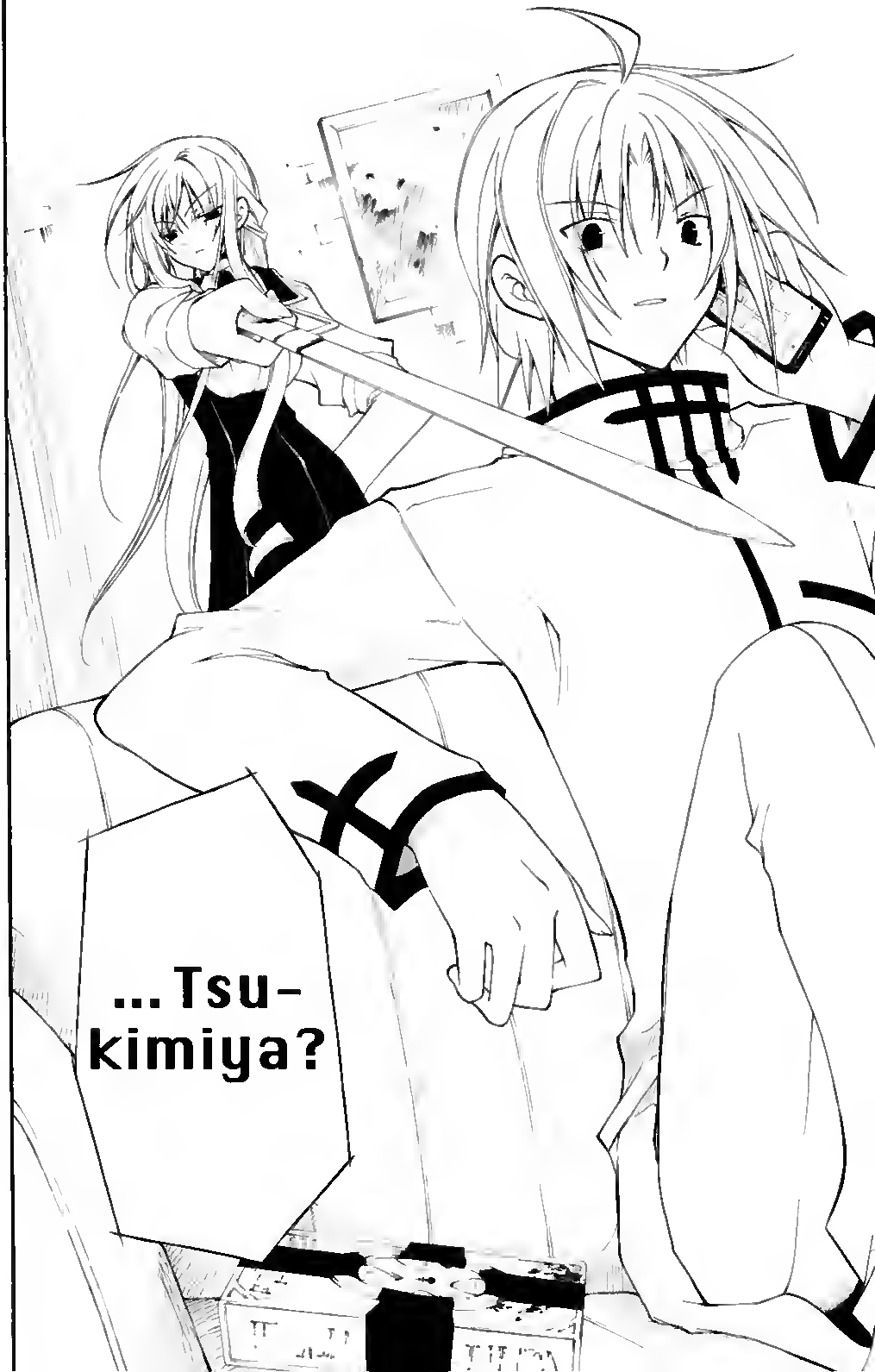
...
ZAA
(WOOSH)

...
HANA-
MURA!
THE KEY!?


I'M ABOUT TO RETRIEVE IT...

USE US UP 'TIL WE'RE WORTHLESS THEN KICK US ASIDE?
YOU SUCK!

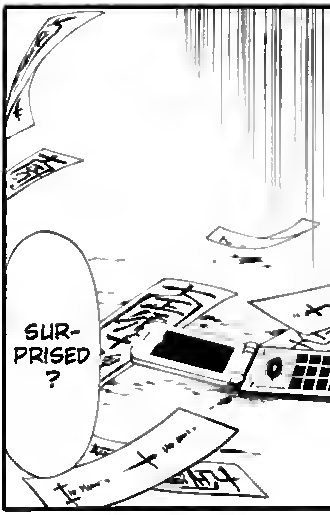
WHA ...!?
GO (THWAK)
AND POOR TSUKIMIYA! SHE WOUND UP DEAD WITH A HOLE IN HER HEAD!
JARI (CRUNCH)
...FOR BICKERING OVER THE KEY FOR YOU LOSERS.
SHEESH, WE'RE SO PATHETIC...
...!
What a lying, bullying dick we've found in Lord Pureblood Angel here.
Seriously...
... taunting your ailing brethren with promises of undoing their curse.
Don't ...
... you agree...

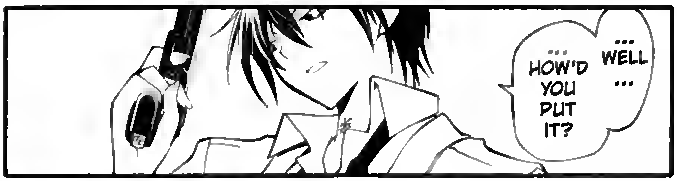

...Tsu-
kimiya?

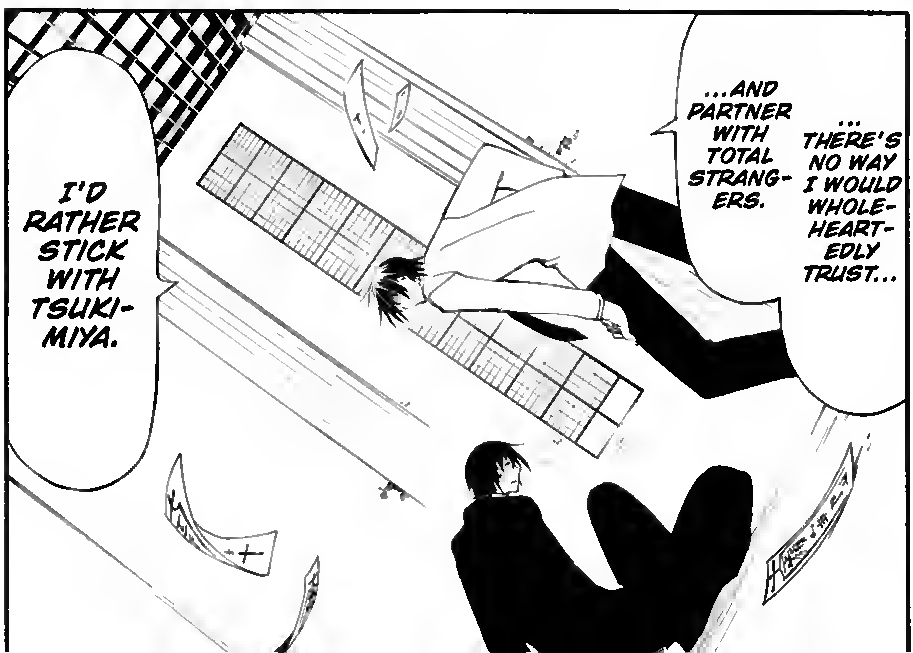
NO WAY ...!
BA (WHIRL)
YEAH. ... THOUGH ...
...I'VE KNOWN IT WAS ALL A LIE FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
ZU (ZWSH)
ZAAAA (ZWOOSH)
WHA!!!?

THE DECEIT WAS MUTUAL, YOU SEE.
I CAN TELL WHEN SOME-ONE'S LYING.

... WHILE YOU FOUGHT WITH HER DUMMY.
... SPELL-ING HER BACK TO YOUR MASTER'S SIDE...
I WAS A REAL BUSY BOY...


SUR-PRISED ?


... HOW'D YOU PUT IT?
... WELL ...

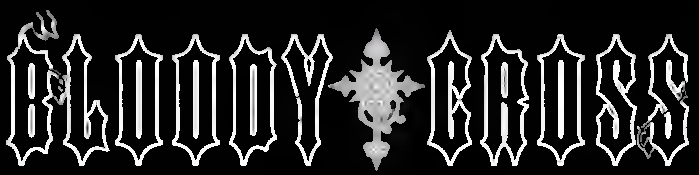

I'D RATHER STICK WITH TSUKI-MIYA.
...AND PARTNER WITH TOTAL STRANG-ERS.
... THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD WHOLE-HEART-EDLY TRUST...

THANKS FOR LETTING US OUT.
FOR OUR COMPLIANT PARTICIPATION IN YOUR STUPID TRAINED MONKEY SHOW...
...I'LL BE TAKING A LITTLE SOMETHING AS COMPENSATION.
SINCE OUR FEES...
...ARE PRETTY STEEP.
CHARI (CLINK)
WELL, THEN...
VUN (VWM)
...THANK YOU KINDLY.
SAA (SWOOSH)
...NH!
NEXT TIME YOU TRY TELLING LIES, DO IT BETTER...
...AND TO SOMEONE LESS JADED.
...WELL...
...FAREWELL, MR. PUREBLOOD ANGEL.

I'LL BE TAKING THE PROPHECY BOOK AS MY PRIZE AS WELL.
TCH!
GASHAN (SHATTER)
ガシャーン
GAKUN (LURCH)
ワーン

DAM-MIT!
FILTHY HALF-BREEDS !!
HEH.
HEH.
HEH.
...PROPH-ECY BOOK ...
...AND KEY...
WE'VE FINALLY GOT BOTH.
AND THE DIVINE POWER THAT WILL NULLIFY OUR CURSE...!
NOW ...

...LIFT THIS TROUBLE-SOME CURSE OF MINE!!
O GOD!


BLOODY CROSS

BLOODY CROSS

PROPHECY BOOK AND KEY...
WE'VE FINALLY GOT BOTH.
コツ
KOTSU (TOK)
LET'S DO IT!

Chapter 3
The Divine Power

ZAA
(SWOOSH)

BUT IT'S A SURE BET THAT THOSE PURE-BLOODS WILL COME TO TAKE THE BOOK BACK.
... WELL ...

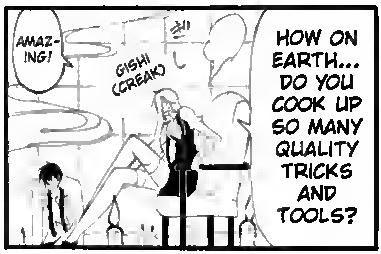
THIS PERIMETER HAS TO BE CHARGED WITH THE DIVINE POWER FIRST...

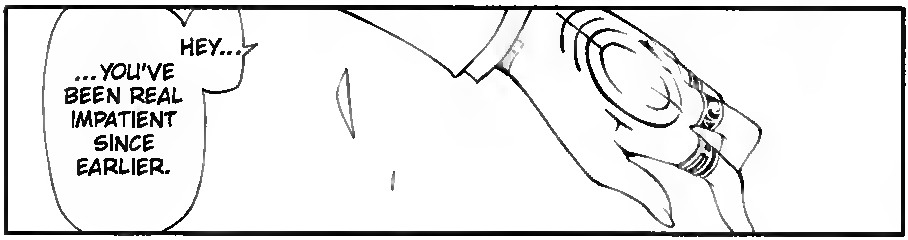
IT'S A PAIN THAT IT'S NOT INSTANTA-NEOUS, BUT OH WELL.
... I'D BE SUSPI-CIOUS IF IT WERE TOO EASY.
SIGH.. I ADMIRE YOUR PA-TIENCE.

...THAT'S WHY I HAD YOU ERECT THIS MOUNTAIN OF BARRIERS FOR US.

...AHH...
...I CAN'T BEAR HOW THE MARK THROBS ...
...CRYING TO BE UNDONE BY THE DIVINE POWER.

NICE, RIGHT? THEY'RE MY RESERVE CANDLES...
...EACH ONE'S BEEN INDIVIDUALLY SPELLED.


AMAZING!
GISHI (CREAK)
HOW ON EARTH... DO YOU COOK UP SO MANY QUALITY TRICKS AND TOOLS?

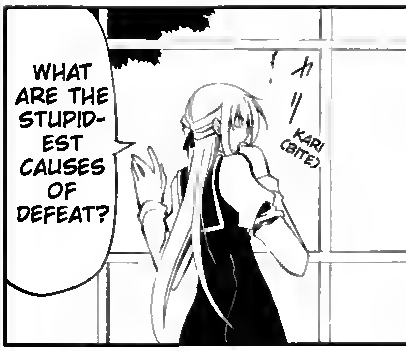

HEY...
...YOU'VE BEEN REAL IMPATIENT SINCE EARLIER.

I, FOR ONE, AM SAD TO BE SEEING YOUR MARK FOR THE VERY LAST TIME.
YOU WON'T BE SEEING YOURS FOR LONG EITHER, YOU KNOW.
WELL, IT'D BE SILLY NOT TO.
...DIDN'T THINK WE'D ACTUALLY SHARE THE GODLY POWER.
I...

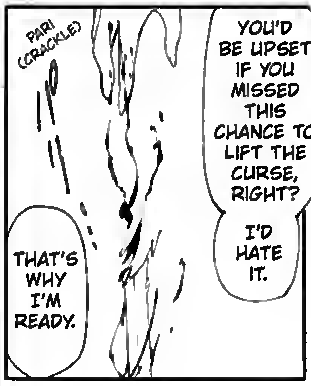
THE POWER WITHIN THIS BOOK IS STRONG ENOUGH...
...THAT IT'LL EASILY LIFT BOTH HALVES OF OUR CURSE.
YOU FELT IT TOO, DIDN'T YOU? WHEN WE GOT A GLIMPSE OF IT?
KAGA CRUSTLED
!!
...
A CROW'S FEATHER...! WHEN DID IT GET INSIDE MY BARRIERS?
YOU...
...DON'T LIKE FEATHERS?
GO AWAY!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN ANGEL?
HM?

BLACK FEATHERS ARE UNLUCKY!
"RUN IF SIGHTED.
"IF TOUCHED, NO ESCAPE.
"FOR—"
DOON (BOOM)
... SORRY.
I'LL TELL YOU LATER.
COM-PANY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BOTHER YOURSELF WITH THEM. MY SPELLS ARE STRONG.
THEY WON'T GET HERE BEFORE THE DIVINE POWER IS FULLY CHARGED.

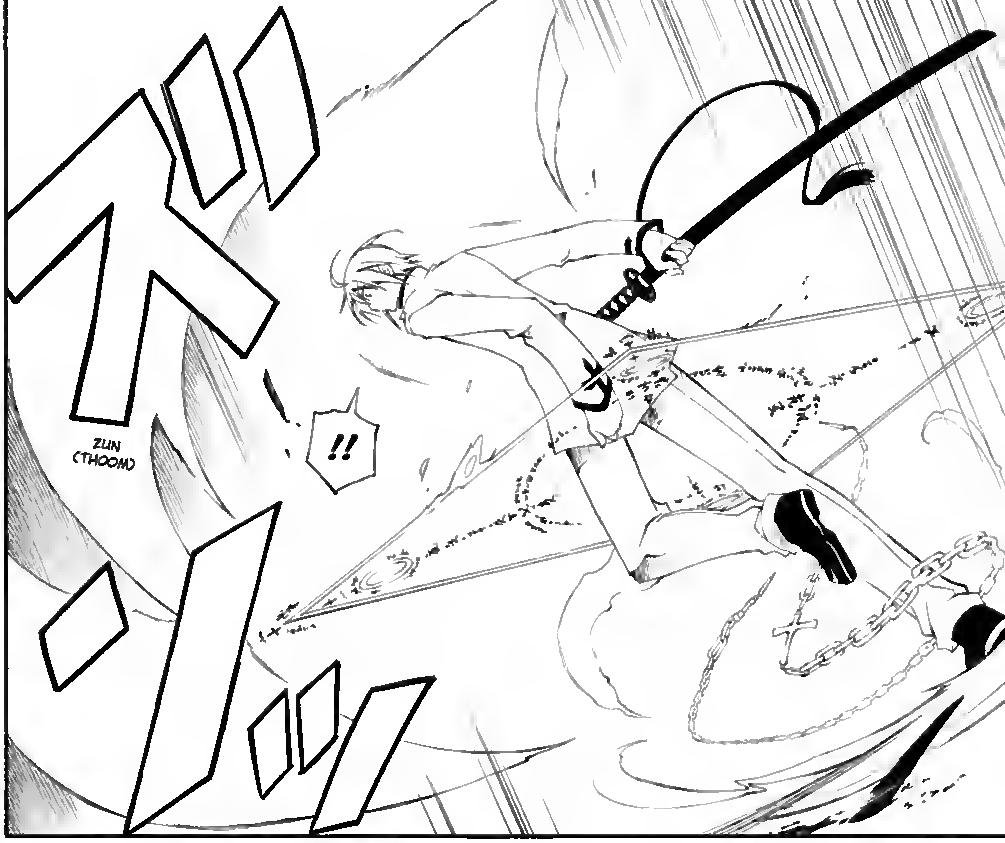
IF WE CAN DEFEND THIS PLACE...
...WE'LL WIN FOR SURE.


WHAT ARE THE STUPIDEST CAUSES OF DEFEAT?
KARI (CATCH)

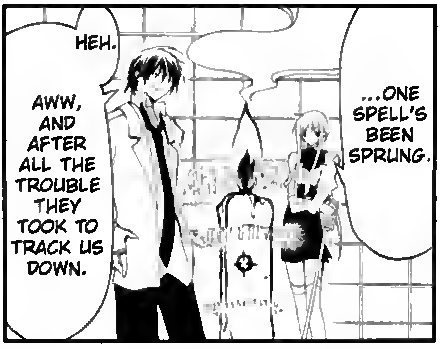
CARELESSNESS AND OVERCONFIDENCE.


PARI (CRACKLE)
YOU'D BE UPSET IF YOU MISSED THIS CHANCE TO LIFT THE CURSE, RIGHT?
I'D HATE IT.
THAT'S WHY I'M READY.

TCH ...!
ZA (SKFF)
THOSE HY-ENAS.
THEIR SPEED IS ALMOST DISGUST-ING.
Quit admir-ing them.
Get over here right now.
SEEMS THEY'VE OPENED THE BOOK.
WE MUST RETRIEVE THE BOOK...
...BEFORE ITS DIVINE POWER PEAKS!
PAKI (SNAP)


ZUN
(THOOM)
!!

NOW WATCH AND WEEP AS WE USE THE DIVINE POWER...
...PURE-BLOOD.
BUST-ED!


HEH.
AWW, AND AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE THEY TOOK TO TRACK US DOWN.
...ONE SPELL'S BEEN SPRUNG.

A FIRST-RATE BINDING SPELL...

...
HA...
THAT YOU, A HALF-BREED, CAN USE SUCH THINGS...
...IS BEYOND IMPERTI-NENT!
ZA CZWISH
KOO CFWSH
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

RESCIND!!
PAAN (POP)
HEY...! IS IT SUPPOSED TO FALL APART THAT EASILY!?
!!
...TCH! 'COURSE NOT!
IT'S NOT SOME TOKEN, TWO-BIT SPELL THAT'S JUST FOR SHOW!
GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...
GIRI (FLAKE)

...I WON'T LET THEM TAKE THIS ANY FURTHER!
THOSE HALF-BREEDS ...
KIN CCHINO
キン
WHAT IS IT WITH THAT PURE-BLOOD ...!!?
THIS IS WHERE WE TAKE BACK THE UPPER HAND.
COME AND MEET ME, HANAMURA.
I'VE COMPLETED PROCESSING THE CHURCH DATA, SO...
UNDERSTOOD ...
...TSUZUKI
... AH ...
I MAY BE THE SLIGHTEST BIT DELAYED, I'M AFRAID.

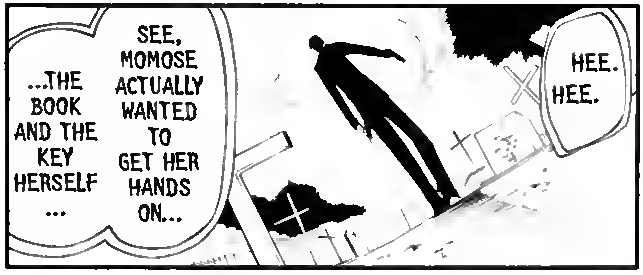
IT SEEMS THERE'S A LITTLE SNAG I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.

PFFT!
Y'KNOW, MOMOSE SAW YOU GUYS FALLING FLAT ON YOUR FACES BACK THERE.
THE WHOLE THING.

OH?
YOU'LL PLAY WITH MO-MOSE?
GEE, THANKS!

JA (CHAK)

EEK!
DAN
DAN (BANG)


...THE BOOK AND THE KEY HERSELF ...
SEE, MOMOSE ACTUALLY WANTED TO GET HER HANDS ON...
HEE. HEE.

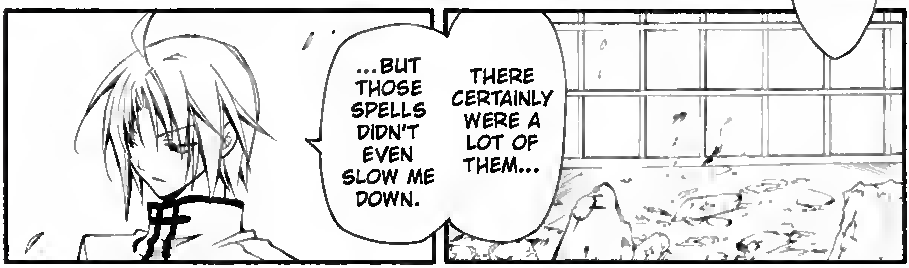
HEH.

HMPH
GU (GRAB)
EEP !?
DO (SLAM)
IRRI-TATING FELINE.
...SO MOMOSE COULD FLAUNT THEM IN FRONT OF THAT PERSON WHO'S SO PRECIOUS...
...TO YOUR MASTER!
GRR ...
MEN WHO AREN'T NICE TO GIRLS ARE THE WORST!
FINE BY ME.
SINCE... ...I'M NOT FOND OF OBTUSE WOMEN.

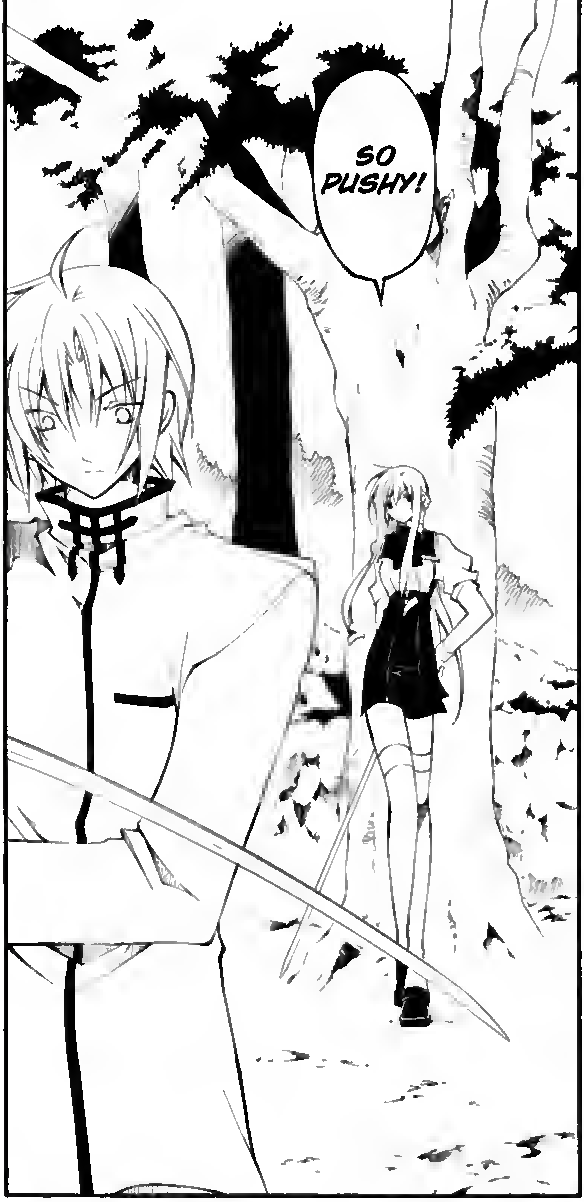
...TRYING TO GET TO YOUR MASTER, RIGHT?
PARI (CRACKLE)
GRR...
MOMOSE DOESN'T QUITE GET IT, BUT... BUT YOU'RE...
ビキ
BIKI (GLINT)
ビキ
BIKI
MO-MOSE...
...IS A GOOD GIRL, SO SHE'S GONNA BE REAL NAUGHTY TO YOU!
ZAA (WHOOSH)
HEE!
HEE!
HEE!
DOPU (OUNK)
GHH...!

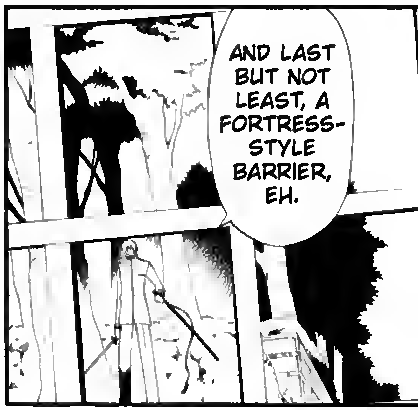
HA HA!
FITTING. THE DOG'LL STARE IN ENVIOUSLY FROM OUTSIDE.

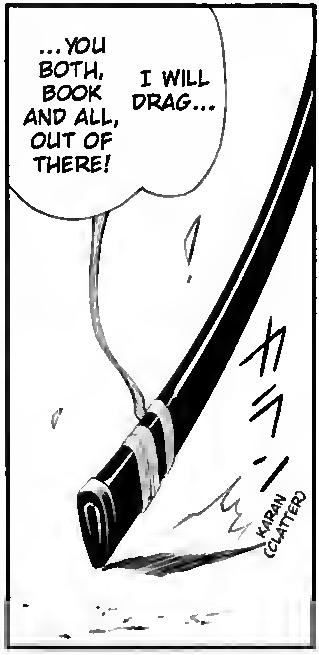
GOGO (RUMBLE)
ゴゴ
...NOW, THEN...

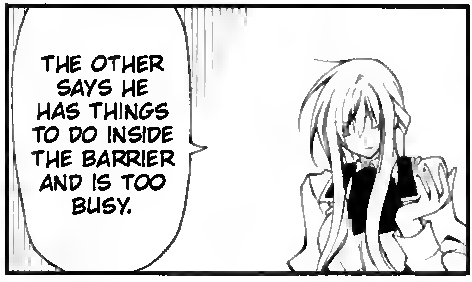

THERE CERTAINLY WERE A LOT OF THEM...
...BUT THOSE SPELLS DIDN'T EVEN SLOW ME DOWN.

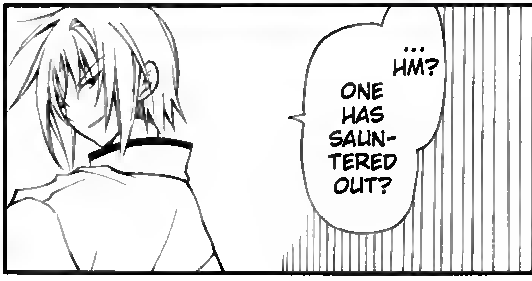
HALF-BREEDS.


SO PUSHY!


AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A FORTRESS-STYLE BARRIER, EH.


I WILL DRAG...
...YOU BOTH, BOOK AND ALL, OUT OF THERE!
!
KARAN (CLATTER)


THE OTHER SAYS HE HAS THINGS TO DO INSIDE THE BARRIER AND IS TOO BUSY.


...HM?
ONE HAS SAUN-TERED OUT?

I HAVE TIME TO KILL UNTIL THE DIVINE POWER PEAKS.
SHALL WE HAVE A LITTLE CHAT, MR. PURE-BLOOD ANGEL?
HYU (FWP)
IF YOU'RE JUST STALLING, NO THANKS.
I'M SAYING I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU.
NO, NO.
HOT-HEAD.
OH?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
TSU (TAP)
YOU...
...WANT THE BOOK, DON'T YOU?

IF YOU DON'T MIND A SLIGHTLY DAMAGED, USED COPY...
...YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT.
YES, USED.
NIKO (GRIND
USED?
WHAT HINATA AND I WANT...
...ISN'T ALL OF THE BOOK'S VAST POWER.
JUST A TINY PIECE, ENOUGH TO BREAK OUR CURSE, IS SUFFICIENT.
WE DON'T REALLY NEED THE REST.

SO...
...I WOULDN'T MIND LETTING YOU HAVE IT.
...HAAH.
WELL?
NOT A BAD DEAL, RIGHT?
YOU VULGAR HALF-BREED.

...
WHAT?
TCH!
HYU (WHISH)
DON'T LUMP MY MOTIVES IN WITH YOURS.
OH?
WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT BETWEEN US?
ZAA (WOOSH)
YOU WANT POWER TO FULFILL SOME WISH YOU'VE GOT.
BOTA (BLOP)
BOTA

DO (BOOM)
HM..
ZU (LOOM)
GASH! (GRIP)
GH!
AND THAT IS WHY I CALL YOU VULGAR!

I'LL SET YOU STRAIGHT, SINCE YOU SEEM CONFUSED.
I AM NOT LIKE YOU...
...DAZZLED BY THE DIVINE POWER.
I'M—
KA (FLASH)
HEH...
THE DIVINE POWER HAS FINISHED CHARGING.
DAM-MIT!

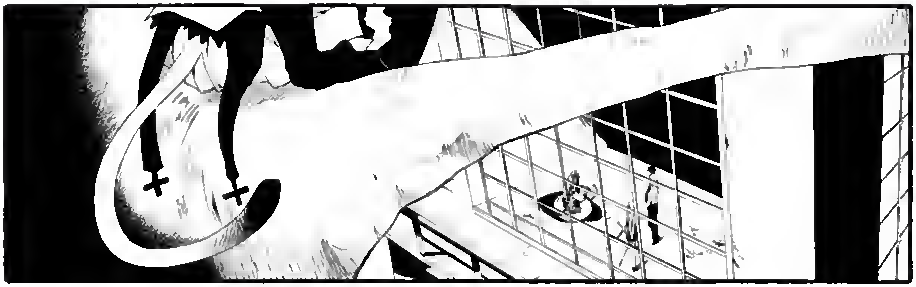
ENOUGH AL-READY!
GIRI (SQUEEZE)
...
STIRRING UP TROUBLE WHER-EVER THEY PLEASE!
HALF-BREEDS!
RE-SCIND THE BAR-RIER!!
PAN (POP)

GASHAAAN (CRAAASH)
GAH!
TAN (DASH)
DOSA (THUD)
OW!
ZUZU (TWOO)
I WILL COLLECT THE DIVINE POWER!

I HAVE RECEIVED AN ORACLE!
TO (THIP)
IT HAS BEEN FORE-TOLD...
...THAT I WILL PROCURE THE DIVINE POWER NECES-SARY TO BECOME THE NEXT GOD!

BACHI (BZAP)
ACTI-VATE!
...THAT SO!?
...OH...
UNH!!
VLIN (VWIMM)
SHURU (WRAP)

CAN'T NULLIFY THIS ONE, CAN YOU?
NOPE!
PASHI (GRAB)
REAL QUICK, WHILE YOU AND TSUKIMIYA WERE CHATTING ...
I WHIPPED THIS UP JUST FOR YOU.
SORRY, THIS IS OURS.
DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE A GOD, THOUGH.
YOU MAD?
OH, GOODY. THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
NIKO (GRIN)
AND WE'RE ONLY GOING TO PISS YOU OFF MORE.
BY USING...
...THIS DIVINE POWER RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

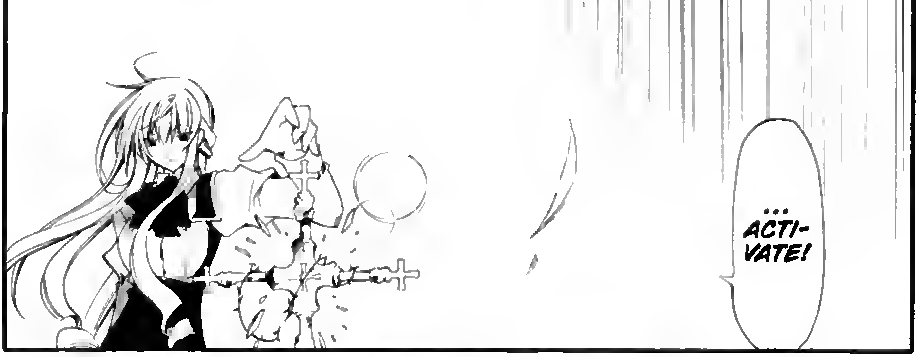


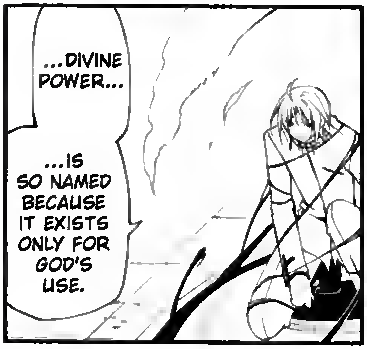
MOMOSE WANTS A TASTE TOO...
AW, THAT DIVINE POWER LOOKS DELISH!
HURRY, HURRY!

HEE!
HEE!
THEY'RE FINALLY DOING IT.

JUST HAFTA BE PATIENT ...
...A LITTLE LON-GER.
MMM ...

'COS HE HASN'T TOLD MOMOSE IT'S OKAY YET.


...
ACTI-
VATE!


...DIVINE POWER...
...IS SO NAMED BECAUSE IT EXISTS ONLY FOR GOD'S USE.

KOO (FWSH)

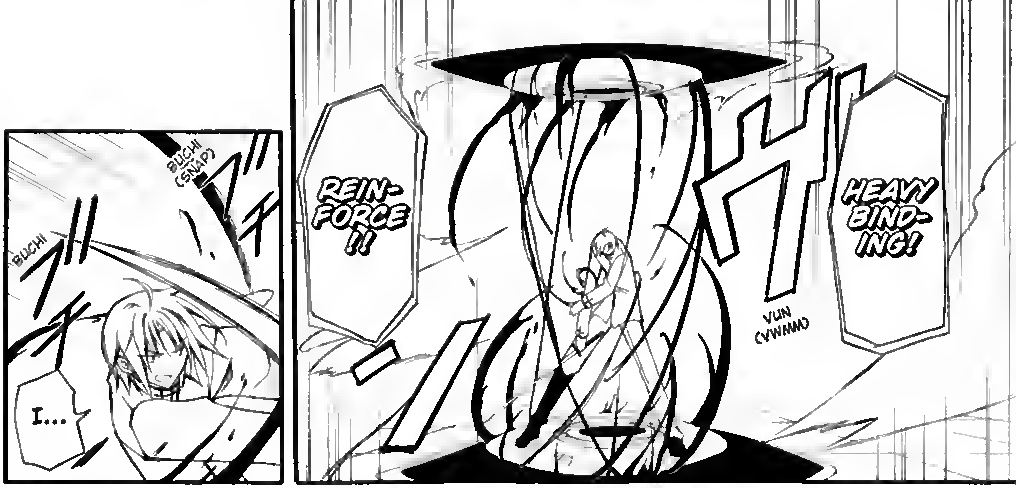
IT'S NOT SOME BASE THING TO BE EMPLOYED BY MERE MIXED-RACE ANGELS LIKE YOU.

...
THINGS WE WANT TO DO...
...
HUH.

I'M SURE THERE ARE THINGS YOU'D WANT TO DO IF YOU SURVIVED, BUT THIS IS THE COLD TRUTH.
GIVE IT UP!
LISTEN TO MY WARN-INGS AND ACCEPT YOUR PLACE.

PLAN-NING AHEAD ...
...IS A LUXURY RESERVED FOR THOSE WITH SHELTERED UPBRINGINGS WHOSE FUTURES ARE GUARAN-TEED.
OBNOX-IOUS BRAT.
THE TWO OF US REALLY WANT TO LIVE, SO...
... SORRY, BUT...
...TO COME THIS FAR ONLY TO CHUCK IT AND DIE? C'MON, GIMME A BREAK!
WHO SAYS WE'RE GONNA DIE?
DON'T JUST LIGHTLY ASK US TO GIVE UP, MY LORD.
GIRI (GRIP)
RGH ...
I SWEAR!
HERE I'VE BEEN INDULGING YOU, PITYING THAT YOU'LL BE DEAD TOMORROW ANYWAY, AND YOU PUSH ME ASIDE...?
KOOOO (FWOOSH)
ENOUGH AL-READY ...!
BUCHI (SNAP)
YOU TWO... ...

I GIVE UP!
BUCHI
BUCHI (SNAP)
NO MORE WELL-MEANT LEC-TURES!
DIE! RIGHT NOW! RIGHT HERE!!
I'LL GET RID OF YOU!!!
Y-YOU REALLY ARE A COUPLE OF AR-ROGANT BRATS!
I MEAN IT!!
TCH!
SHEESH.
WHAT KIND OF BINDING DOES IT TAKE TO RESTRAIN YOU?
BA (FWIP)
CAN'T YOU STAY TIED UP TILL WE'RE DONE WITH THE DIVINE POWER!?


BUCHI (SNAP)
BUCHI
I...
REIN-FORCE !!
VUN (VWAM)
HEAVY BIND-ING!

...WON'T...
...LET YOU USE IT!

PLEASE...
SU (FSH)

...UNDO THIS CURSE...

...AND ALLOW THE TWO OF US TO LIVE ON.

ナニ
(HISS)
ITS

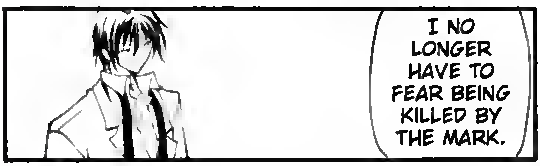
THE MARK IS...!
...
IT'S FINAL-LY...
PAAN (POP)
...UN-DONE.

DO
(JAB)

GU ?
(CLENCH)
!
NOW DIE...
...HALF-BREED!
SURU
(SLIP)
...YOU'RE KIDDING.
I STABBED YOUR HEART. WHY AREN'T YOU DEAD?
THAT HURT!
ARE YOU A MONSTER !!?
ZUBA
(SLASH)

BOTA
BOTA (BLUP)
...MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I PRAYED TO LIVE ON.

FINALLY... I'M RELEASED FROM THE MIXED-RACE CURSE.


I NO LONGER HAVE TO FEAR BEING KILLED BY THE MARK.

I'M SO HAPPY ...
... THAT I'LL GO IN-SANE.

SEEMS YOU CAN'T KILL ME RIGHT NOW...
...WHILE GODLY POWER DWELLS INSIDE ME.

...NH!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE FELT THIS KIND OF RAGE...
DIVINE POWER...
GIRI (SQUEEZE)
...ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE USED ON SUCH TRIVIAL CURSES!
GIVE IT BACK!
RIGHT NOW!!
HIRARI (FLIT)

ZAA (SWOOSH)
—WHAT THE...? WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE'S THE PURE-BLOOD?
...SUM- SOME-
MONED ONE...
JUST
THE TWO
OF US
HERE.
RSTL
...
FEATH-
ER...
A
BLACK
...

WHAT...!?
WHAT ARE THESE FEATHERS!?
THEY'RE REVOLTING!!
HINATA!
CAN'T ONE OF YOUR SPELLS GET US OUT—
BASA (FLUTTER)
...
HEY...
...DIDN'T YOU SAY BLACK FEATHERS WERE A BAD—
GUPO (GRAB)
!!
BA (PWAP)

HUH ...?
GOPU (BLURP)
ZURI (SLURP)
GORYU (GKLRP)
GORI (SCRAPE)
ZURI
GORI
WH... WHAT THE...?

...HOLDS DIVINE POWER.
...D-
D-DON'T ...
...TOUCH ME!!
AHH...
...THIS ONE ALSO...
BORO (SHLIP)

DO (SHINK)
ZU (OOZE)
I'LL TAKE THIS CROSS...
...OF DIVINE POWER.
BOTA
BOTA (PLUP)
DOSHA (SPLAT)

...HOW DULL.
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST SHRIEKED ONCE AS YOU DIED.
ESPE-CIALLY CON-SIDER-ING...
...I DEIGNED TO DO YOU IN MYSELF.
—I AM SATSUKI.
I HAVE RECEIVED AN ORACLE.

IT HAS BEEN FORETOLD THAT I...
...WILL PLUNDER THE DIVINE POWER TO BECOME THE NEXT GOD!

BLOODY CROSS

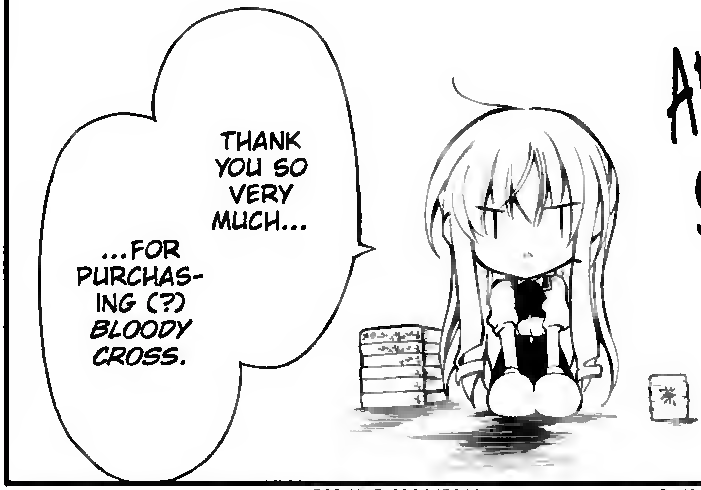
PREVIEW

PASHI (GRAB)
IT'S SIMPLY ...
...THAT THE GAME TO DECIDE GOD HAS FINALLY BEGUN.
THE STOLEN BOOK'S POWER...
THE FALLEN ANGEL ATTACKS—!!!
THINGS TAKE A SUDDEN TURN IN THE QUEST FOR THE RELICS OF GOD WITHIN WHICH DWELL DIVINE POWER...!!
WHEN SATSUKI BECOMES GOD...
...COULD HIS VERY FIRST ACT BE TO KILL MOMOSE?

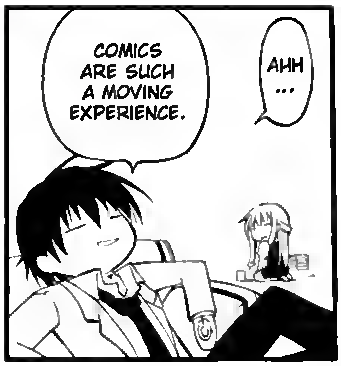
I JUST LOVE RETRI-BUTION.
INTERSECTING DESTINIES OF BLOOD!!
SINCE MY WISH ...
...CAN-NOT BE GRANTED UNLESS I BECOME GOD EITHER.
WHAT FEARSOME POWERS DOES THIS FALLEN ANGEL POSSESS...!!?

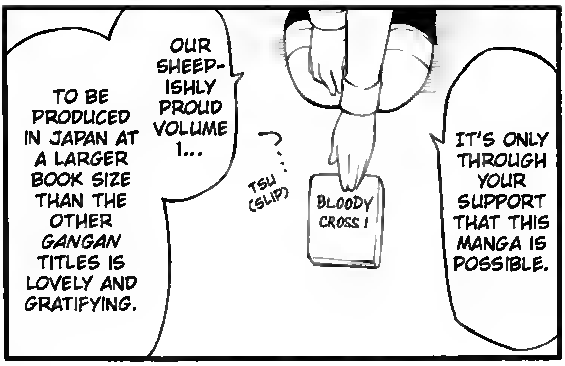
To be Continued in BLOODY CROSS Vol. 2!!

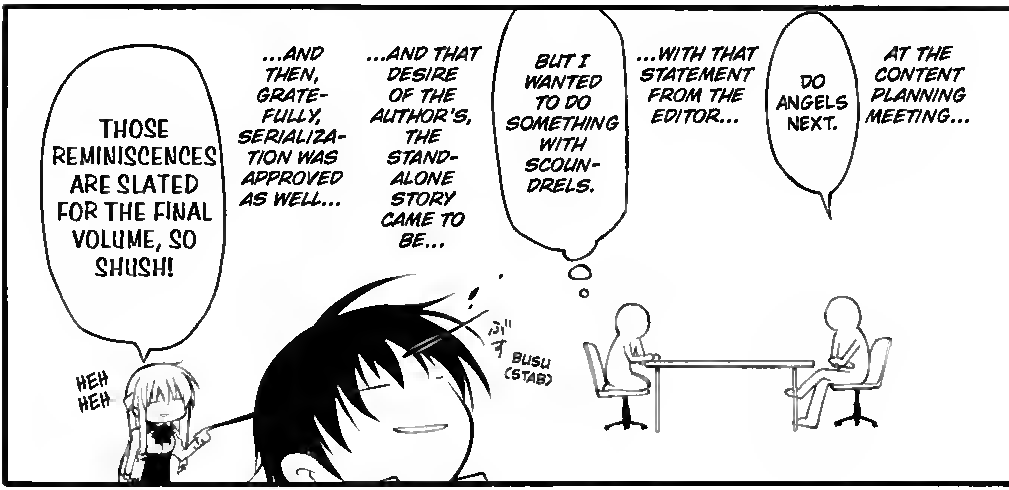
AFTERWORD SCRIBBLES



BOOKS: BLOODY CROSS MUG: TEA




TO BE PRODUCED IN JAPAN AT A LARGER BOOK SIZE THAN THE OTHER GANGAN TITLES IS LOVELY AND GRATIFYING.
OUR SHEEPISHLY PROUD VOLUME 1...
?
TSU (SLIP)
BLOODY CROSS 1
IT'S ONLY THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT THAT THIS MANGA IS POSSIBLE.


THOSE REMINISCENCES ARE SLATED FOR THE FINAL VOLUME, SO SHUSH!
HEH HEH
...AND THEN, GRATEFULLY, SERIALIZATION WAS APPROVED AS WELL...
...AND THAT DESIRE OF THE AUTHOR'S, THE STAND-ALONE STORY CAME TO BE...
BUT I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING WITH SCOUNDRELS.
...WITH THAT STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR...
DO ANGELS NEXT.
AT THE CONTENT PLANNING MEETING...
BUSU (STAB)

LET ME EXPLAIN.
HINATA IS AN UNLUCKY MAIN CHARACTER WHO DIDN'T GET TO APPEAR IN EITHER THE STAND-ALONE OR FIRST CHAPTER'S COLOR PAGES BECAUSE IT WAS THOUGHT THAT IT'D BE LIKE REVEALING A PUNCHLINE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE JOKE.
HIS ONE AND ONLY TIME IN COLOR SO FAR WAS A MINI-INSET ON THE COVER OF THE MAGAZINE ISSUE IN WHICH THE STAND-ALONE RAN. THAT'S HIS SAD PERSONAL HISTORY.
STOP ...!
DON'T GOUGE IT OUT!
GANGAN
RIGHT HERE
...BY THE WAY, CONGRATS ON YOUR (PRACTICALLY) FIRST COLOR APPEARANCE, HINATA!
MY WOUNDED HEART!
GUSAAA (STAB)
AT LONG LAST, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE PART OF THE CHAPTER 3 TITLE PAGE...
...BUT BECAME THE UNFORTUNATE VICTIM OF A LAST-MINUTE REVISION.
POST-REVISION
PRE-REVISION
HI
TSUKI
GUSA
FURTHER-MORE... DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN IN THE STORY CONTINU-OUSLY...
...YOU STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ON ANY CHAPTER TITLE PAGES EITHER.
GUSA
AAAAH!
BUT I'M A MAIN CHARAC-TER!
WHAT IS THIS HORRIBLE TREAT-MENT!?
PLEASE SEE US AGAIN IN VOLUME 2.
T
...
WONDER WHEN YOU'LL FINALLY MAKE...
...A CHAPTER TITLE PAGE?
!...
PON (PAT)

BLOODY CROSS ❶

Shiwo Komeyama

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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